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RICHARD PERLE Russia must destroy its biggest industry

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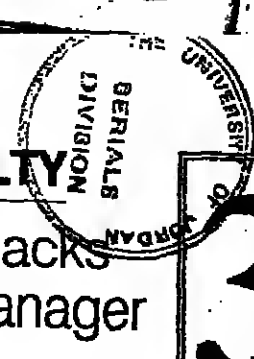
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THE TIMES

No. 64,829

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 1993

IRA high command to meet

Adams says Sinn Fein wants peace

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND NICHOLAS WATT

GERRY Adams yesterday kept the prospect of peace in Northern Ireland alive as the IRA prepared to decide whether to accept John Major's offer of a place at the conference table in return for an end to violence.

The Sinn Fein president said his organisation was committed to peace but needed more time to consider the Anglo-Irish declaration. It emerged that the IRA's supreme authority, the General Army Convention, is to meet this weekend for only the second time in 25 years, to consider its response. All the organisation's units, including some 300 in Ulster jails, are to be consulted.

The General Army Convention is the only body in the IRA which can decide to call off a military campaign. If it rejects the deal the IRA will have to adopt a new campaign.

Sinn Fein's decision to avoid an outright rejection of the declaration and Mr Adams's measured reaction heartened the Dublin Government. Officials said it would allow

■ The IRA General Army Convention is meeting to decide its response to the peace initiative. Ministers made it clear that there will be no bargaining

time for the Nationalist community and politicians to exert pressure on the leadership of both wings of the movement and to convince them of the value of the peace accord.

However, Mr Adams appeared ready to drive a hard bargain. In his first reaction to the deal he spoke of the need for "clarification" from Dublin. Richard Macauley, the chief Sinn Fein spokesman, said that the release of prisoners would be one of a number of issues to be discussed in any negotiations. "No one is setting preconditions for any talks," he said. "If we are going to have a resolution to this conflict then we must consider where the prisoners will fit into that."

Other leading Republicans voiced unhappiness with the declaration. Mitchell McLaughlin, the party's Six Counties chairman, said: "People on the streets have seen initiatives come and go. Their gut instinct on this one is that the governments may not

be completely revised by next Easter to give schools more control over what they teach and bring peace to the classroom."

Sir Ron Dearing, in his final report to be published early next month, will recommend that up to 20 per cent of the curriculum is made voluntary by September 1995. The core subjects of English, mathematics and science will be left intact, but only the basics of other subjects will be compulsory.

John Patten, the Education Secretary, will receive the report next week and is likely to accept the formula in an attempt to end industrial action by teachers' unions. Extensive consultation among teachers has shown strong support for a swift review of the whole curriculum, rather than a subject-by-subject revision over several years.

Schools have complained that the present curriculum takes up all the available teaching time. The new approach would give them the scope to teach subjects such as classics or vocational courses. Sir Ron will recommend retaining the controversial ten-level scale on which pu-

lils' progress is assessed. Although the system is regarded as over-elaborate, it is likely to survive to provide a basis for long-term comparisons.

Academics and teachers are being approached to serve on working groups covering each of the ten subjects. Their recommendations will feed into separate committees covering the four stages of the curriculum.

Schools will be consulted on the proposals during the summer term, allowing the revamped curriculum to be completed by the end of the year. Teachers and publishers will then have nine months to

prepare for the change. A senior source at the authority said: "Teachers have indicated to us that they would prefer a simultaneous revision of the curriculum, and introduction in September 1995 is the target that has been suggested to us. That means that the revision must be completed in 1994, which we think is realistic."

The changes would not require legislation, but Mr Patten would have to approve each of the new subject orders. The expert groups will be told not to introduce new material, but further controversy is inevitable in subjects such as English and history.

English and technology were already subject to review. Proposals made by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's predecessor, the National Curriculum Council, will form the basis of a new English order, while technology is being given a sharper focus.

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the approach, although he said that schools would have to be allowed

Continued on page 2, col 5



Oliver Reed with his wife, Josephine, after being cleared yesterday in a High Court action brought by his film stand-in, Reg Prince. Details, page 3

Schools increase control in curriculum shake-up

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE national curriculum is to be completely revised by next Easter to give schools more control over what they teach and bring peace to the classroom.

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Continued on page 2, col 5



Dearing: sending report to John Patten next week

Ernie promises a new millionaire a month

BY LINDSAY COOK, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

ERNIE is to give away larger prizes to Premium Bond holders. The random number selector will introduce a monthly £1 million prize starting in April, National Savings announced last night. The move is seen as a spoils for the National Lottery, which could start next autumn.

The weekly Premium Bond jackpots of £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 will also be scrapped in April, as will the £250,000 monthly jackpot.

Big prizes, page 25

SIT BACK AT CHRISTMAS

15 days' viewing



TOMORROW'S special 52-page Vision will give full TV and radio listings for the 15 days from December 18 to January 1 so you can plan for the holiday.

For instance, will it be Pavarotti on Channel 4 or Only Fools and Horses on BBC1?

There will be details of 200 films as well as the choice of best drama (such as Helen Mirren, above, in Linda La Plante's Prime Suspect 3 this weekend), arts, documentaries, comedy, children's programmes and sport

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Irish bomb plot terrorists jailed

Two Irish National Liberation Army terrorists were convicted at the Old Bailey of plotting to steal explosives for a planned bombing campaign against MPs and other targets. Martin McMonagle and Liam Heffernan, both 31, were jailed for 25 and 23 years respectively. — Page 5

have succeeded in putting it together.

In London, ministers made it plain that there could be no bargaining with the IRA. The difficulties in any negotiations involving Sinn Fein were underlined when Robert McEneaney, head of the party's so-called prisoners of war department, said there could be no settlement without the release of "political prisoners".

Mr Major has consistently said there are no political prisoners in the United Kingdom, and he has given an "absolute commitment" that there would be no amnesty for convicted paramilitaries.

More details of the mecha-

Peking tries to cut BBC film on Mao

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MAO Tse-tung's flamboyant sex life is widening the gulf between Britain and China at a time of icy relations over the future of Hong Kong.

Peking, which has almost no concept of a free press, has asked the Foreign Office to try to censor a BBC 2 television programme to be broadcast on Monday, detailing the Chairman's taste for group sex with young girls. Dr Li Mao's personal physician, and other former Chinese officials, tell the programme that China's greatest hero behaved more like a tyrannical, sex-crazed emperor than a simple-living father to the masses.

A British embassy official in Peking has been called to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and the Foreign Office in London has been asked to "make representations to the BBC about the content of the programme", a Government

spokesman said. John Birt, director-general of the BBC, was also asked to discuss the programme with Chinese embassy officials in London but he sent a representative instead with members of the Timewatch team who made Chairman Mao — The Untold Story.

In Peking, the BBC correspondent, James Miles, and a British embassy representative were told that they would be held responsible for the consequences if the programme went out, sources close to the BBC said.

The BBC will also broadcast another less-than-adulatory programme about Mao — to mark the centenary of his birth this month — on World Service radio on Christmas Day. Red Emperor details Mao's disastrous policies, and the differences between what he preached and practised.

Voters reject the Budget

Kenneth Clarke and his Budget have been overwhelmingly rejected despite the initial warm welcome by Tory MPs. The latest MORI poll for The Times shows that it was the worst received Budget since the mid-1970s, apart from Norman Lamont's last statement. The poll puts Labour at 47%, Tories 29% and Liberal Democrats 20%. — Page 8

Jobless total falls by 36,000

The Government forecast "jobs and prosperity" in the new year after figures yesterday showed unemployment falling by 36,100 and the largest three-month rise in jobs since the recession began. The jobless fall boosted ministers' optimism after good figures this week on inflation, sales and public borrowing. — Page 25

90% of pensions salesmen 'at fault'

BY SARA MCCONNELL

MORE than 90 per cent of salesmen's files opened as part of an investigation into mis-selling of personal pensions showed that they had ignored regulations set down for selling the plans.

The investigation, by KPMG Peat Marwick, the firm of chartered accountants, for the Securities and Investments Board, the chief city regulator, comes after fears that hundreds of thousands of people had been persuaded to transfer out of good company pensions into personal pensions which offer less secure benefits but a good sales commission.

The findings of the report represent the first concrete evidence of widespread mis-selling of personal pensions by insurance companies, building societies, banks and independent advisers. Of 735 files opened, only 9 per cent were

judged satisfactory because they showed a salesman had got full details of the company scheme and explained the risks of transferring to the customer. The rest either did not have enough information on a customer's circumstances or showed positive evidence of mis-selling.

KPMG said that in 73 per cent of cases there was not enough information on the file to show if the advice to transfer was right or wrong. The advice given was suitable in only 13 per cent of cases and not suitable in 14 per cent of cases. The Commons Treasury and Civil Services Select Committee is also planning to investigate the issue of pension transfers but rejected Opposition calls for statutory regulation of transfers.

Pensions enquiry, page 25
Report analysis, page 26

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The Commons goes crackers over Christmas

Around this time of year, even MPs are susceptible to that festive feeling. But their idea of festivity differs from ours. For us, "festive" is a happy word, evoking images of joy and goodwill. But for MPs, festive sentiment emerges as it might among the Addams family. If you try to imagine what festive demons, festive ferrets or festive serial killers might be like, you have the picture. For MPs at Christmas, hell-raising is their kind of party.

Yesterday was the year's last Prime Minister's Question Time, and Commons inmates were in the mood for fun. They had been warming up all through Questions to the Chancellor. Labour barracked, Tories smirked, and the Chancellor himself, at his stammering, check-puffing, swash-buckling best, harangued his critics in noisy high spirits.

Labour's shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who not only has his speaking ooties typed in block capitals, but speaks in block capitals, hurled a few blood-curdling statistics at Kenneth Clarke. Clarke hurled back a few generalised insults.

Tories cheered. Labour jeered. Labour cheered. Tories jeered. If anyone had burst a couple of balloons, tried to dance with Madam Speaker, or passed among MPs distributing mince pies — indeed, if anyone had been sick — it would not have seemed out of place. Asking the poor Hansard reporters to take all this down is rather like asking a shorthand typist to take a complete transcript of an office party.

John Smith and John Major therefore entered the room with a knees-up already in full swing. There were the usual blowy cheers, and derisive hoots.

Jim Callaghan (Lab, Heywood & Middleton) began, setting the tone with the first question. His aim was to paint a lurid year-end pic-

ture of Major's Britain, and he pulled out all stops.

We were told of abandoned schizophrenics being mauled by lions in zoo cages whither they had wandered, of tribes of people living in cardboard boxes... all of it, concluded Callaghan with a sort of gloomy relish, "an utter disgrace". If he had now flourished one of those whistle-and-paper devices with a feather at the end, which squeal and uncured when you blow into them, the effect would have been complete.

Mr Major was not actually wearing a Christmas-cracker hat, but might as well have been. He blew his own party-squealer back at Labour.

Now came an ogly interlude with an uninvited gate-crasher. Norman Lamont rose — to a pantomime "ooohh" from all sides.

It was his cue to emerge as a worried Tory unionist. He probably is a worried Tory unionist, but he's also a dispossessed Chancellor. MPs seem to remember that last life is so unfair. Both sides seemed determined to treat Lamont as a party-pooper. Mr Major swung a festive rattle in the cause of his own Irish initiative, and everyone cheered.

Then he and John Smith played a party game. In this, the Labour leader demands that the PM admit he has put up taxes, and the PM demands that the Labour leader admit that he planned to, too.

Both charges are correct. The trick, however, lies in ignoring the charge against you, while vigorously pressing the charge against your opponent. Yesterday, as Tory poodles queued up to kiss Mr Major under the mistletoe, Mr Smith sat back, the winner.

If anybody can be said to win these ludicrous games, the joy of Christmas is that it does not go on forever. Must PM's Questions?

Bar Council tackles boring lawyers

The public is to get a better service from barristers, as a review of standards and the complaints machinery is launched

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LONG-WINDED, pompous speeches by barristers could be a thing of the past with an initiative announced by the Bar yesterday to tackle shoddy standards and poor performance in court.

Robert Seabrook QC, chairman-elect for 1994 of the 7,700-strong Bar, announced the creation of a standards review body under Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of the National Westminster bank and a former chairman of the Bar.

The body, which contains lay members, has a wide-ranging remit. As well as tackling shoddy standards, it will look at the quality of service from barristers, fees and at overhauling the machinery for complaints so the public has better redress.

Recommendations will follow, such as new disciplinary machinery to ensure that barristers who ramble on and put up a poor performance can be warned or disciplined.

Addressing the Bar Council in London yesterday, Mr Seabrook said that the quality of service provided by the Bar was exceptionally high. "But we cannot ignore the finger that has been pointed at us by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice and others in some areas. Shoddy work by any barrister lets us all down."

It was essential, Mr Seabrook added, that where the service offered by a barrister fell short of an acceptable standard, the Bar had "effective procedures in place to tackle this and a modern

complaints procedure to provide redress to complainants". Lord Alexander said that the Bar was a pool of outstanding talent and expertise. But to survive, it had to have "effective mechanisms to monitor and improve standards and deal fairly and effectively with complaints about poor service".

This was what the public increasingly expected and what the profession must provide, he added. "The profession must demonstrate that it is responsive to the needs of its clients and is accountable for poor standards." He hoped that the review body would recommend modern systems to achieve this, enabling the Bar to compete more effectively in the future.

One key part of the review, which includes the solicitor Sir John Wickerson and the accountant John Magill as well as six barristers, will be the overhaul of the disciplinary and complaints machinery.

Mr Seabrook said later: "We have got to modernise our complaints machinery. It is no longer acceptable in my view to say we deal with a complaint only if it amounts to a disciplinary offence."

Mr Seabrook also announced the creation of a policy unit or "think-tank" under James Mumby QC which will review restrictive practices at the Bar.

The unit would be prepared to "think the unthinkable". Mr Seabrook said. However, this does not include rules such as the "cab-rank", which requires barristers to take cases in strict rotation.



Lord Alexander of Weedon, who is to head the Bar's standards review body

Six days — the record for a speech

BY OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Rhodes, a leading silk, took a record six and a half days to finish his closing speech in the Barlow Clowes fraud trial last year.

He insists that the speech was long because of the complexity of the case — and argues in his defence that he obtained an acquittal.

In another case last month, a judge at Isleworth Crown Court accused defence lawyers of time-wasting. Judge Miller said they had dragged out controversial proceedings so long that the victim was deterred from giving evidence.

The situation, he said, was disgraceful. "Standards have slipped. There are good barristers and there are some very bad barristers. Some barristers go on and on."

Yesterday solicitors welcomed the Bar initiative to crack down on verbosity but insisted it was already on the decline. Charles Plant, head of litigation at Herbert Smith, said: "If they are pompous or long-winded, we use them only once."

However, he accepted that a few barristers "take every point — good, bad or indifferent, and without regard to the investment in time or money". That was partly the fault of the adversarial system and the need to deploy all arguments, but, he added: "There are times when judges let them go on too long and not everyone is aware of just how much it is costing."

House price forecast backed

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PROPERTY experts yesterday backed a forecast that house prices will rise sharply next year.

This week the estate agents Savills predicted rises of 19 per cent across the country and 25 per cent in prime London areas. Yesterday other estate agents agreed that prices would rise but considered the Savills figures to be too high. David Goldsworthy, presi-

dent of the National Association of Estate Agents, said: "I think there will be rises of up to 15 per cent in London and about 6 per cent elsewhere, but I think the figures produced by Savills are over the top."

Lorna Vesey, from Knight Frank & Rutley's London office, said prices in London would rise by 10 to 15 per cent. "I think a 25 per cent rise is too high. Our figures show that this year there has been a rise of 11.4 per cent in London property prices, and they may

well do the same next year." Chestertons estate agents predicted a 10 per cent increase in London prices.

Builders were also optimistic. Barratt is stepping up its New Year building programme from 5,000 to 8,000 homes to take advantage of an expected surge in the market. Frank Eaton, chief executive, said: "I feel reasonably optimistic. Through 1993 the market has strengthened and our sales have steadily improved. The ratio of house prices to income is the lowest since 1970 and mortgage rates are at their lowest for a quarter of a century. There is considerable pent-up demand."

Building societies were more cautious. The Halifax predicted house price rises of 5 per cent, and the Nationwide predicted rises of 3 per cent. Birmingham Midshires said its latest poll showed consumer confidence to be the highest for over a year, suggesting a stronger market next year.

Ford cuts 1,400 jobs to compete with Japanese

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JOBS will be cut by almost a third at one of Ford's biggest plants in an effort to compete with Japanese rivals.

The company yesterday told unions that there would be no night shift in January at the Halewood plant in Merseyside and that 1,400 of the 4,800 jobs would be cut because of lower demand and increased competition.

Ford said the jobs would be cut over five years through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies. It will review the night shift in the new year. Unions think there will be no night shift for at least three months. John Fleming, Halewood plant manager, said the company had to reassess output because of the big drop in demand on the Continent.

Also, despite a 12.6 per cent

increase in new car sales so far this year, the home market remains depressed compared with record registrations of five years ago — a fact illustrated by the announcement yesterday that Lancia is to abandon new car sales in Britain.

The Italian manufacturer is to discontinue right-hand drive versions of its cars because production is uneconomic. Peak sales of 11,400 cars in 1978 have slumped to just 599 so far this year.

Parts will still be available through Fiat showrooms, and owners of cars registered since August 1990 will be given a £1,600 "goodwill" coupon. The company's problems reflect the intensity of the competition in Britain, the only growing car market in Europe and, as a result, the

target of manufacturers searching for growth.

That intensity continues to force the big manufacturers to cut costs as more efficient Japanese producers, such as Honda, Toyota and Nissan, accelerate output from their UK factories.

Jimmy Aldie, chief Ford negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The Government is saying we are coming out of recession but this does not square with the reality on the ground."

Ford is investigating an engine fault that makes the Mondeo, named European Car of the Year, run badly in cold weather. The company admitted yesterday that drivers around the country had complained but said it would not need to recall the vehicles.

Curriculum change aims for peace

Continued from page 1

flexibility in the timescale for implementing the changes. "We cannot go too slowly if pupils are to have the education they are entitled to and teachers' professional authority is to be restored."

Sir Ron's proposals would bring about the biggest change in state schools since the national curriculum was adopted in 1988. Although none of the existing curriculum would be erased, few schools would be likely to use the voluntary sections in their present form.

All age groups, from five to 16, would be affected by the revision. The reductions in compulsory teaching time would vary between the four key stages of the curriculum.

Sir Ron's review of the curriculum and its tests, commissioned by Mr Patten last

spring, will be the crucial factor in determining whether the unions call off their boycott of tests. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which led last summer's dispute, has already indicated that it is unlikely to continue its action if Mr Patten accepts Sir Ron's proposals.

The National Union of Teachers has voted by a big majority, however, to continue its ban on national curriculum testing and assessment until it sees the impact of the review. The Association of Teachers and Lecturers has yet to consult its members on whether to call off its boycott.

Fresh court action is likely if any unions decide to renew their industrial action in the new year.

Leading article, page 21

Adams backs peace

Continued from page 1

ing the IRA for two bombs which disrupted railway services. The devices were found at Brookwood station in Surrey, on the main London Waterloo to Southampton line, after a coded warning.

At Westminster, Mr Major continued to win support for his agreement, but Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, gave vent to the concerns of the Tory right when he questioned the Prime Minister's commitment to the Union. He said Mr Major's past statements of support for the Union "stands a little odd" beside the declaration's statement that this country "has no strategic interest in Northern Ireland".

John Hume, leader of the

Nationalist SDLP, is shortly to resume his talks with Mr Adams. He said the declaration gave "solid grounds" for peace. However, the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, claimed that the people of Northern Ireland would prefer independence than being pushed into a united Ireland.

In a move clearly designed to placate the Unionists, the Government announced talks on the setting up of a Northern Ireland Select Committee, one of the key demands since the introduction of direct rule. Unionists insisted that the decision was not a sop to them for their support on the Maastricht Bill or for their lack of condemnation of the declaration.

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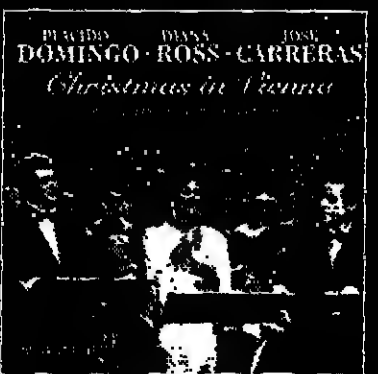
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Court clears Reed of blame for film stand-in's injuries

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE actor Oliver Reed was cleared of blame yesterday for the crippling back injuries that wrecked the career of his film stand-in Reg Prince.

Mr Reed, who had been accused of tipping him over a 12ft restaurant balustrade on to a beach during a drunken prank, kissed his wife Josephine on the steps of the High Court after his legal ordeal and vowed to celebrate with a cup of tea.

The star, who maintained he acted in self-defence when he deflected Mr Prince as he charged at him, said: "I'd like a reconciliation and I'm not ruling it out, but I don't know how Reg or I would behave."

"A lot of mud has been slung and it's difficult to scrape it off. My personal life has been raked over in court and I'm sad about that too. I am a bizarre character and I understand the press has a job to do. I contribute to my own reputation at times."

He added with a smile: "I'm going to talk to Josephine's family and have a cup of tea, but I shall be celebrating in one way or another later."

Mr Reed, 55, who lives in Guernsey, was speaking at the end of a four-day hearing in which his unusual lifestyle, including drunken escapades, lavatorial humour and the sporting of tattoos on private parts — were placed under the microscope.

Mr Justice Owen, who told the court he had to decide "did he jump or was he pushed?", dismissed Mr Prince's action for damages in which he claimed the actor grabbed his ankles and deliberately tipped him over the balustrade of La Reserve restaurant on the island resort of Praslin in the

Seychelles during a break in filming *Castaway* in 1986.

The judge said: "I am not saying he [Mr Prince] is lying. It may be — as may be the case with Mr Reed — that now, through the mists and vapours of drink, he doesn't know what the truth is." Nor was he prepared to accept the evidence of Mr Reed where it conflicted with other witnesses.

"Drink is a notorious enemy of good sense, of good manners and of good memory," Mr Justice Owen said. "The decision as to what is good

'I am not saying he is lying. It may be that now, through the mists and vapours of drink, he doesn't know what the truth is'

sense may be at least in part subjective and the same goes for good manners. But as to memory the drunk may not only remember poorly, he is also likely to remember selectively." In his view both Mr Reed and Mr Prince had selective memories when giving evidence.

Many episodes recorded by the newspapers made Mr Reed out to be a "monster of moral or immoral depravity", the judge said. He accepted some, but rejected others.

The judge said the injury was a result of Mr Prince attacking Mr Reed, "either seriously because he was af-

fecting by drink or in mock aggression", and then plunging over the balustrade.

Mr Prince, 57, from Wimbledon, southwest London, a friend of the actor for 20 years, received two fractures of the spine. As he left court with a walking stick, he said: "I am disappointed. As I said all the way through, I hold nothing against him. I wouldn't rule out a reconciliation."

Although Mr Reed won an order for costs it is not to be enforced without leave of the court because Mr Prince is on legal aid. Mr Reed will have to bear his own costs, estimated at £50,000.

Mr Reed added: "I was expecting justice and that is what I got. I was saddened it came to this. It is the last thing I would have wished to have all this bitterness with Reggie. I feel sadness because I have lost a good friend and it has been compounded by this action."

There was a suggestion my lawyers made that I could have lodged money in court, which he could have accepted and it would not have involved me in this action, but I insisted I would fight it to the end."

He added: "I understand what I do can bring distress to people, but it usually brings smiles. The response from the average man in the street in the past few days has been phenomenal."

Of Josephine Reed, 28, who gave evidence for her husband, the judge said: "I am bound to say her denial of incidents concerning her husband, some of which may have had some factual basis, seem to be more a tribute to her love for her husband than a tribute to absolute veracity."



The Princess of Wales waving farewell to the crowd that assembled outside the Institute of Contemporary Arts in The Mall, central London, yesterday to witness the first of her last public appearances (Alan Hamilton writes). It was difficult to tell who were the more

distracted, the photographers or the Princess's adoring public.

The princess worked the crowd a treat as she attended the annual general meeting of Centrepoint, a charity for the young homeless of London, of which she is patron. Norman Williams, a retired factory

worker from Wrexham who has attended 49 of her functions, said: "She told me she wasn't going to cry, and she said she would be at Sandringham at Christmas if I wanted to see her again."

The photographers, too, will not have to wait long for their next

assignment with the Princess. Already this week the media have been tipped off about supposedly private visits, one with Prince William to a Roman Catholic hostel for the homeless, and one with her staff — and her husband — to lunch at a London restaurant.

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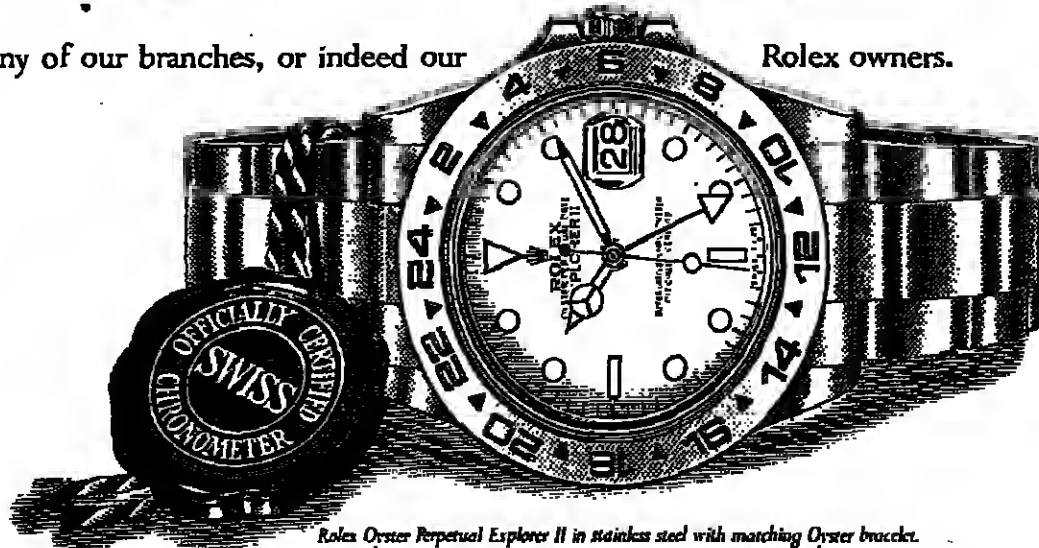
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Double murder stuns school

By BILL FROST

NEIGHBOURS and colleagues of a university lecturer and his disabled wife who were battered to death in their home spoke yesterday of their horror and grief.

Police found Dr Barry Taylor close to death in a hallway and the body of his wife Janet, a teacher, concealed in a cupboard. Detectives said she had extensive head wounds.

The couple's pet dog, a recent present from their daughter Jenny, had also been battered to death, suffering repeated blows with a blunt instrument.

Neighbours raised the

alarm on Wednesday night after hearing screams and "loud banging and crashing" coming from the semi-detached two-storey house in Southsea, Hampshire.

A man wearing blood-stained clothing seen running away from the rear of the house was later arrested. Police believe he was known to Taylor family.

Det Chief Insp Nick Imber, who is leading the enquiry, said yesterday: "It was a very violent attack; the assailant clearly lost control."

Dr Taylor and his wife, whose daughter is studying

law at Birmingham University, were described by friends as a gentle and loving couple. They had been planning to spend Christmas abroad to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Staff at Portsmouth University, where Dr Taylor had worked since 1971, described him as "cracker of a teacher". Two years ago he became principal lecturer at its School of Mathematical Studies.

Mrs Taylor taught at Fernhurst Middle School in Southsea. Yesterday a team of counsellors helped pupils and staff to cope with their grief.

McLaren to make speed record bid

By OLIVER HOLLY
MOTOR RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Formula One racing car manufacturer McLaren yesterday unveiled a car which it believes will break the world land-speed record and the sound barrier.

Ron Dennis, managing director of McLaren International, said he hoped the car, codenamed Maverick, would reach speeds approaching 1,000mph, well over the land-speed record of 633mph set by Richard Noble of Britain in Thrust 2 ten years ago.

Mr Dennis, unveiling the car at his company's headquarters in Woking, Surrey, said it was the fruit of two and a half years' secret work. However, the car would only go ahead if it was commercially viable. He hoped to make an attempt on the record within six months, probably in the USA.

The 14-metre long vehicle, which is all-British, looks more like a plane with its pencil-thin nose cone. It boasts a Rolls-Royce engine similar to that used in the Tornado fighter and will need a flat distance of 13 miles to make the attempt. The car is made of fully stressed carbon composite.

The project leader, Dr Bob Bell, 35, an aeronautical engineering graduate, said the attempt would probably be made on a clay or salt surface. "We need the mile measured for the record attempt to be in the middle of the 13-mile stretch," he said.

After the McLaren Formula One team surpassed Ferrari's record of 103 Grand Prix wins last season, Mr Dennis said the record presented a new challenge. However, the company will allow pictures of the vehicle only once a big investor has been found.

THE TIMES TOMORROW

double VISION

The 52-PAGE GUIDE to Christmas and New Year television

15 DAYS of radio and television listings

The best of the season's 700 FILMS

The pick of comedy, drama, documentaries, arts, sport and children's programmes

WEEKEND



SARAH WILLIAMSON
at 17, is set to become the latest Liverpool sensation; she confides her ambitions to Alice Thomson

SUE CREWE
advises guests to be prepared for all sartorial eventualities on a country-house weekend

DOUG SAGER
survives winter waterfall plunges in the Alps

GILLIAN ROWE
illuminates the craft of painters who offer New Masters for old

VIVIAN RUSSELL'S
Gardens of the Riviera: this first exclusive extract focuses on the garden of Charles de Noailles

ROGER BOYES
reminds us that Kitch is a German word in his round-up of Teutonic crazes

RUTH GLEDHILL
visits the beleaguered Hare Krishna temple at Letchmore Heath

ALSO: Paul Heiney on rams and marital strife in Farmer's Diary; Christian Dymond on collecting brand new First World War planes; Jessica Gorn-Williams recommends stocking fillers under £1; Frances Bissell on how to cope with Christmas food; and Julia Llewellyn Smith learns how to deep fry fish and chips



Dear Drambuie, I'm appalled!

What are you playing at? Your campaign to get the public to drink this fine tippie with ice is totally mad. All this drinking it 'on the rocks' smacks of American liberalism to me. Not since the Chief of Amphibious Warfare suggested landing on Juno Beach with a battalion of windsurfers have I heard such a daft idea. Don't get me wrong. We have our fingers on the pulse down here. Sonic the squirrel is no stranger to this household. But to desecrate 248 years of tradition sets my Scottish blood (my wife's father was capped for Scotland at Curling) boiling.

Bonnie Prince Charlie won't be resting too peacefully, either. Was it not he who first took the secret recipe of aged malt whiskies, herbs and honey, and sped in his bonnie boat like a bird on the wing to the Mackinnons of Skye? There to enjoy the smooth, subtle flavours of Drambuie in the arms of his beloved Flora. The suggestion that ice would have any part to play in such a warm, bathetic scenario is laughable.

Don't assume I'm being blimpish over this. Marjorie and I have been drinking your Drambuie, alternating it with and without ice. In fact, we're enjoying some as I write.

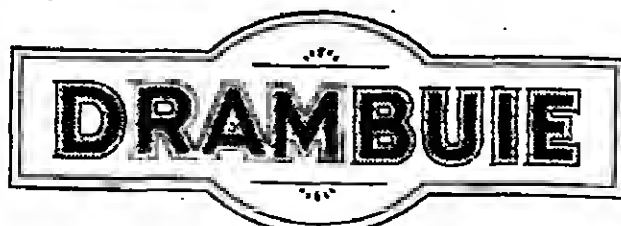
True, ice does seem to bring out the flavour of the drink. The fine malts I particularly noted. But must tradition always play second fiddle to you Johnnies in marketing?

If the plan was to make the drink go further by watering down the Drambuie with ice, it's failed. My bottle is empty.

So, I say "pah!" to Drambuie on the rocks.

And I hope your campaign ends up there, too.

Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, Rtd.



Undercover agent foiled INLA campaign

Irish terrorists jailed for bomb plots against MPs

By RICHARD DUCE

TWO Irish terrorists were yesterday jailed for 25 and 23 years after they were found guilty of planning an extensive bombing campaign which was foiled by an undercover MI5 agent.

Martin McMonagle, a senior member of the Irish National Liberation Army, was jailed for 25 years and Liam Heffernan for 23 years. The targets of their bomb plot included the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.

Mr Justice Sachs told the two men after they were convicted by a jury at the Old Bailey in just over an hour: "You have besmirched the fair name of Ireland where good people are working towards peace — in stark contrast to your activities. Your chilling intention was to maim, kill and destroy, a prospect which clearly gave you much pleasure."

Neither had shown any remorse or regret, said the judge — "one of the hallmarks of terrorists".

McMonagle, 31, from Limerick, and Heffernan, also 31, from Belfast, were arrested at a quarry in Somerset last February after they were lured into an armed police trap by Patrick Daly, a former driving instructor, who with his family has now been given a new identity at a cost of £400,000 to protect him from reprisals.

Mr Daly, who had established contacts with the republican movement while working in Bristol, helped MI5 to set up a safe house for the terrorists, where their conversations were bugged. He had been working for Special Branch since 1974

when he was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and threatened with an exclusion order.

Their targets included Ulster MPs, particularly the Rev Ian Paisley, Peter Robinson and the Rev William McCrea, all Democratic Unionists. Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, was also discussed by the pair as a possible target during conversations taped by police.

Dennis Skinner, the Labour MP for Bolsover, was also mentioned but Heffernan

sions, conspiring to steal and possession of a firearm.

The court was told that McMonagle was only 18 when he was detained for 18 months for being a member of a proscribed organisation in Belfast and later jailed for five years for falsely imprisoning two people at gunpoint.

Unusually their defence barristers made no closing speeches to the jury after trying to establish that Mr Daly was an agent provocateur involved in an illegal MI5 operation in Ireland, a

dercover for 19 years, was responsible for inflicting a severe setback to the INLA, who assassinated Airey Neave MP outside the House of Commons in 1979, by thwarting a bombing campaign that could have had horrific consequences. As well as civilian target and military targets, the bomb plotters had talked of attacks on a ferry and oil or gas terminals. They told how they wanted to "blow those English bastards to pieces".

Mr Daly's cover was blown after he had lured the INLA active service unit to a quarry at Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset, where they planned to steal explosives. But McMonagle stumbled over a concealed policeman and armed officers were forced to spring their trap prematurely.

Security sources in Belfast regarded Mr Daly as an invaluable agent who had access to highly placed information about the workings of the INLA on the mainland. He was aware of most INLA terrorist plans on the mainland and as a result was able to tip off police and the security services.

Before trapping McMonagle and Heffernan Mr Daly had played a key role in foiling a plan in 1984 by Peter Jordan, a retired schoolteacher, to murder the retired SAS Lieutenant Colonel Brian Baty at his home in King's Pyon, Herefordshire. Mr Daly drove Jordan on a reconnaissance mission to the colonel's home but kept police informed of the INLA plan. Jordan, whose original target was General Sir Frank Kitson, commander of British troops during Bloody Sunday, was later jailed for 14 years for conspiring to cause an explosion.



McMonagle: showed no remorse or regret



Heffernan: lured into police trap at quarry

liked the politician and did not want to take action against him.

A third member of the INLA active service unit escaped the police trap, Anthony Gorman, nicknamed Fanta, is also wanted for the murder of Michael Newman, an army recruiting sergeant, in Derby in April 1992.

McMonagle, whose brother Eugene — also an INLA member — was shot dead by an undercover soldier in Londonderry ten years ago, and Heffernan were convicted of conspiring to cause explo-

claim that Mr Daly denied. In the absence of the jury the judge had told the defence it was "Cloud-cuckoo-land" to suggest McMonagle was incited to come to this country. Listening to the tapes showed that he was "in charge, and enthusiastically in charge".

After the verdict, Det Supt Peter Hind of Avon and Somerset police, paid tribute to Mr Daly's courage. "As a result of what he has done he now has to live a life that none of us can comprehend. He can't even talk about his past."

Mr Daly, who worked un-

Help hard to find for speech problems

By RUTH GLEDHILL

NEARLY half the children who have serious language problems in the United Kingdom are recognised as having difficulties before the age of 2. By the age of 4, more than 95 per cent are recognised as having trouble with speech and language, according to a report on the issue.

Yet fewer than two thirds receive help before they are 4 and only two thirds have obtained a professional diagnosis of their problem by the time they are 5.

Afasic, a charity representing children and young people with speech and language impairments, surveyed all its 1500 members, schools, local authorities and speech therapy departments. More than 400 parents responded.

In nearly 17 out of 20 cases, the parents were the first to notice their child had a problem. Most said they had difficulties trying to persuade professionals to take them seriously.

A repeated complaint was the lack of information about who would provide speech and language therapy for children of school age.

One parent, from Essex, said: "We have received virtually no help or guidance throughout our child's life. The only help we have got we have organised, fought for or paid for."

Theresa Quinn, chairwoman of Afasic, realised something was amiss when her son Damien had failed to develop any speech by the age of 5. Although all tests showed he was of average intelligence, Damien, now 19, was unable to commu-



Theresa Quinn, chairwoman of the charity Afasic, and her son Damien, 19

cate. The medical profession was baffled.

Mrs Quinn said: "They just do not know what is wrong with most of these children. They have all the brain scans and nothing shows up. The best thing about Afasic was finding out we were not the only ones to have a child like this."

Damien attended a special school and is now at college in Dunstable studying computing.

Up to 500,000 children of pre-school or school age will have a communication difficulty at some stage.

The Times is appealing for donations to Afasic, founded in 1968. Afasic aims to increase awareness of these difficulties and to raise funds for speech and language therapy and for research. The charity runs a nationwide network of self-help groups and organises conferences, workshops, training and counselling.

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Expiry date _____ / _____

Signature _____

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Comics out of their depth

Well, there are compensations for fans of French and Saunders. When the comedienne launched into a long routine in which they wondered if their friendship was an unacknowledged lesbian one, last night's audience at the Strand Theatre was delighted.

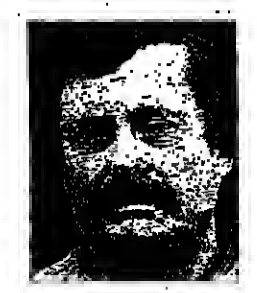
When Jennifer Saunders asked, "Are you saying I'm a lousy lover?", and Dawn French riposted with "The whole time we were kissing, I was fighting to stay awake", the punters roared; and not only, I think, because they included a fair quota of friends, backers, celebs and people readying themselves for a first-night party.

Pity about the play, though. *Me and Mamie O'Rourke* is one of those sweetly-sad American comedies about the lure of fantasy and the need to face hard truths. Had Chekhov been dug up and stuck before a word-processor, it might have come touchingly to life. But the author is Mary Agnes Donoghue, and she does not make quite the same demands on what are, in any case, two gallant but limited talents.

French half-lumbers, half-dimples onstage in platinum curls and a black suit, looking

First Night

Benedict Nightingale



like a blend of Goldilocks and Daddy Bear. She is Bibi, best friend of Saunders's Louise, who mopes about in a grey corrugated cardigan with matching wellies. The latter has special reason for gloom. For one thing, she lives in the laundry-room of a grim shack somewhere outside LA. For another, her husband David is an architect whose belief in his own revolutionary genius means he has already demolished the house's dividing walls and has his destructive sights fixed on the imitation Adam fireplace.

With sullen David (Sean Chapman) meekly prowling the place with his sledge-

hammer, no wonder Louise takes regular vacations in Millyville, such as fancying herself a successful dress designer. Meanwhile Bibi, whose pretence is that she could be a pioneering zoologist, waits for a call from the latest of many failed pick-ups, this time a man with whom she had a 20-minute chat at the check-out counter.

The first half rambles affably along, with occasional interruptions from nasty David. In the second, the two chums have their big row, with masks stripped off and emotional innards exposed, all to the accompaniment of the improvise-a-diagnosis sort of psychology mandatory in such plays: "You're afraid of it out there, it's easier to stay here and be victimised by David", that sort of stuff.

But who cares? When the actresses are steering us through Donoghue's wry one-liners and droll interchanges — French mixing a parody coyness with ebullience, Saunders all pinched and peevish — Robert Allan Ackerman's production makes entertaining enough fare. But when something deeper is demanded, they falter. Pain, despair and such are out of the author's range and, I fear, theirs too.

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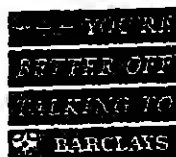
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Stockwell Strangler's escape forces enquiry

Second Broadmoor killer flees guards

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND Broadmoor patient — a mass murderer known as the Stockwell Strangler — fled from his guards yesterday while being taken out for medical treatment.

Four nurses at Broadmoor top-security hospital were suspended from duty yesterday and an enquiry has been set up to investigate the escape by two murderers on separate outings within 24 hours.

Kenneth Erskine fled as he was being taken to a lavatory in the crowded casualty department at the Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, where he had been taken for an X-ray. He ran from the building as one female nurse checked a cubicle and the second male nurse became separated from Erskine by other patients.

A four-strong enquiry team, headed by a consultant forensic psychiatrist, have begun investigating the events that led to Anthony Pilditch, a murderer, escaping from a hotel in Reading on Wednesday while on a Christmas shopping trip.

Joe Fox, assistant chief constable (operations) at Thames Valley police, said: "We are very concerned that within 24 hours two patients from Broadmoor hospital have escaped from their escorts while away from the hospital." The police are to discuss with hospital officials next week the security for patients on outings from Broadmoor.

Erskine, 30, was jailed for killing seven pensioners. He was recaptured by police in Ascot High Street after he ran across the racecourse. He was on the run for about 30 minutes. He surrendered without a struggle and was returned to Broadmoor.

Erskine was jailed for a minimum of 40 years in 1988 after he throttled seven pensioners in south London in a 15-week period.

When he was convicted the jury was told that Erskine had a mental age of 10 and was

described as "a killer who liked killing". He was motivated by perverted sexual desires to kill elderly people, always leaving his victims looking as if they had died in their sleep.

Alan Franey, general manager at Broadmoor, said: "I find it difficult to understand how a patient with two escorts can abscond when the instructions are clear, that patients must be in sight of staff at all times."

The Prison Officers' Association branch at the hospital reacted angrily to the suspension of the two nurses, claiming that they had been blamed for the escape.

Police are still hunting for Pilditch, 47, who has been a patient at Broadmoor hospital since 1986.

There have been two escapes from the hospital in the past 11 years and five other patients have absconded while on outings during the past two years.



One of the houses damaged by shelling in 1914

Scarborough remembers day that changed history

By PAUL WILKINSON

SCARBOROUGH yesterday remembered the day 79 years ago when the path of British military history was changed.

Until December 16, 1914, the Empire had fought its battles on foreign fields. On that day the Britons got their first experience of being in the front line of battle.

Eight days earlier, the Royal Navy had trounced a German task force 8,000 miles away in the Falkland Islands. The Kaiser retaliated with a breakfast-time assault by six ships on Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool, killing 122 people.

The tweaking of Britannia's nose in her own backyard filled the nation with moral indignation. "Remember Scarborough" became a slogan that encouraged thousands to sign up to fight in the trenches and ensured stronger commitment to the war effort.

That commitment might not have been so ardent had the public known that by breaking German codes the Admiralty had obtained

warning of the attack, but decided to let it go ahead. It hoped to catch the ships afterwards but the ten battle-ships dispatched to destroy the Germans failed to find their prey.

Britain regarded the raid as a breach of the Hague Convention forbidding bombardment of undefended sites. But Hartlepool was a naval base protected by shore

batteries and Scarborough, although undefended, was identified on Admiralty charts as a fortified town. Its only defence, however, was a Norman castle.

The action began shortly after dawn when shells fell out of the fog on a radio station. For half an hour more than 500 heavy rounds poured in and 18 people died. At the same time Hartlepool came under fiercer fire that lasted almost an hour, killing 102. The three ships that had attacked Scarborough then moved to Whitby, where two people died.

Scarborough's former deputy harbour master, Captain Sidney Smith, then aged 7, had to abandon his breakfast porridge as the first shells came in. "We could not believe it was the Germans when we first heard the gunfire, we didn't think they would come that close."

"We thought it must be our boys practising, but then we heard the explosions. One family were all killed at their breakfast table. Only the cat survived."



Smith: "We thought it was our boys practising"

Season's best turkeys worth the short wait

By ZUBIA MASOOD

MANY shoppers will be planning to buy their Christmas turkey this weekend, but it might be a good idea to wait until early next week. Most supermarkets are bringing in fresh supplies from Monday.

Fish remains a good buy, although high winds around the coast have limited supplies of certain species and caused fluctuations in prices. Especially good are the traditional white fish and oil-rich species.

Orders for the festive period should be placed with the fishmonger now as Billingsgate market will close on Christmas Eve and does not open for business again until December 30.

Whole gurnard is available for about £1.80 a pound and if prepared properly it can rival monkfish, making an economical and delicious pre-Christmas meal.

Other advertised best buys include:

Asda: Boddington's draught (with free 35cl bottle of Asda whisky) 24 cans, £19.99; Smirnoff vodka/Bailey's Original Irish Cream 70cl, £10.49; Bacardi white rum 70cl, £10.69; cooked and peeled small prawns, £2.96 per lb; Safeway: Deep-filled mince pies (2-pack), 98p; sliced smoked Scottish salmon (200g), £3.99; Sainsbury: Brussels sprouts

1kg, 69p; vanilla dairy ice cream, one litre, 75p; blue stilton, £2.19 per lb; Iceland: Pastry vol-au-vents, 36, £1.85; Lambrosco Bianco Rose 1.5l, £2.99; half-leg knuckle of lamb, £1.89 per lb; whole cooked lobster 250g, £2.99.

Co-op: Buffet sausage rolls 6-pack, £2.39; Brussels pâté 454g, £1.49; Liebfraumilch 1.5l, £2.49; after-dinner mints 150g, 74p.

Marks and Spencer: Ready-to-bake gabarra, 69p; topside and top rump, £2.99 per lb; 2l orange juice, £1.99; plaice goujons, £1.49; sliced beetroot, 57p.

Safeway: Bulgarian cabernet red, £1.99; sauvignon red (75cl), £1.99.

Co-op: Cadbury large-selection stocking, £1.99; mini Babybel nets, £1.19; Spanish or Moroccan Clementines 39p a lb; frozen petit pois 1lb, 69p; roast turkey platter 340g, £1.99.

Iceland: White chocolate gateau, £2.99; roast potatoes 2lb, 99p; yule log, 99p; sage and onion stuffing 2x 6oz, 89p; Tesco: Beef topside and silver-side, £1.98 per lb; whole salmon 4-6lb, £2.49 per lb; Harrods: Chestnuts 500g, £4.50; white courgettes, £2.40 per lb; haddock fillers, £3.80 per lb; broad beans, £3.50 per lb.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer threat

THE Harvard Cup Humans v Computers Chess Challenge held at the Computer Museum in Boston resulted in a convincing win for the team of six grandmasters. The final score was 27 points to the humans and nine to the computers in the six-round match.

However, there were disturbing signs for continued human domination of chess in that the computers at the stronger end of the spectrum scored four wins against their grandmaster opponents. The individual results were (out of six points possible in each case) Joel Benjamin 6; Alexander Ivanov 5; Boris Gulko, Patrick Wolff and Ilya Gurevich all 4; and Michael Rohde 2. The computer scores were as follows: SoCRATES 3; ChessSystem 2; M-Chess Professional and Battle Chess 1; each: Renaissance Sparc+ and Kasparov's Gambit 0.

In the game which follows Patrick Wolff, the 1993 US Champion comes to grief in a sharp line of the Sicilian Defence pioneered in The Times World Championship between Kasparov and Short. Wolff achieved a promising position from the opening but erred with 16 Nxe6 when 16 Bxg7 Nxf7 17 Nxe6 or 16 Bxg7 Bx4 17 Nxe6 both favour White.

White: Patrick Wolff
Black: M-Chess Professional
Harvard Cup Chess Challenge, 1993
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6

3 d4 cxd4

4 Nxd4 Nf6

5 Nc3 a6

6 Bc4 b6

7 Bb3 b5

8 Qd1 Be7

9 Qf3 Qc7

10 Qg3 b4

11 Nc2 O-O

12 Bh6 Ne8

13 c3 bxc3

14 Nxc3 Nd7

15 Bxb5 bxc6

16 Nxe6 Qc4

17 Bxg7 Qxg7

18 Bxb8+ Kxb8

19 f4 Rb6

20 b3 Ne6

21 Ra1 Qg4

22 Qxg4 Nf6

23 h3 Ng6

24 a5 Ne8

25 Nd5 Bh4

26 Re3 dxc6

27 Bxe6+ Kg7

28 Re4 Bg5

29 Rf4 Kf6

30 Rf5 Nd6

31 Rf6xg5 Bxf5

32 Rf5 Nd6

33 g4 Ng7

34 Rf7 Ne6

35 Kg2 Rb8

36 Kg3 Rg5

37 Rf7 Rf5

38 Kf2 Nd3+

39 Ke1 Rf3+

40 Kd2 Rf4

41 Rxa6+ Kg5

42 Ra7 Re2+

43 Kc1 Nd3+

White resigns

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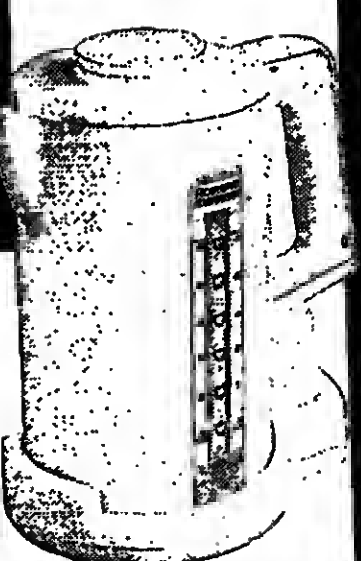
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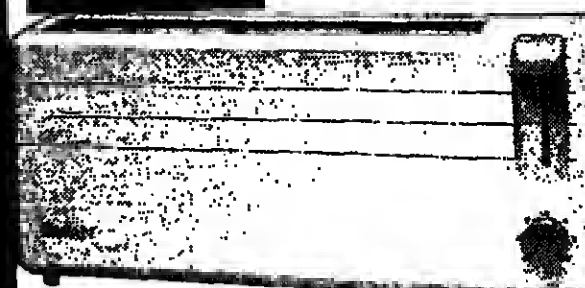


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BBC sells to South Africa

By OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICANS are about to discover the eccentric charms of some of Britain's best-loved television heroes. But what they will make of Basil Fawlty, Blackadder and Delboy remains a big unknown.

In perhaps one of the surest signals that the cultural boycott of South Africa is over, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it had sold eight of its most successful programmes to the country's two leading broadcasters. Negotiations are well under way for the sale of five more.

The export drive — made possible by the lifting last month of Equity's ban on the sale of material to South Africa — is believed to have earned £500,000 for the corporation so far. Eventually the market is expected to be worth millions of pounds to the BBC and commercial television programme-makers.

Leading article, page 21

Drama ruling tests role of TV watchdog

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4 has been strongly criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Council for repeating an episode of the drama series *The Camomile Lawn* that it had censored for obscene language.

The council, which monitors television taste and decency, has imposed one of its toughest sanctions: requiring the broadcaster to publish a summary of its criticisms in a national newspaper. Lady Howe, the chairwoman, also took the unprecedented step of publishing a copy of a stiffly worded formal letter to Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4.

In the letter, Lady Howe said she was disturbed by the use of the word "f---" so soon after the watershed, and the fact that Channel 4 had forgotten to transmit a warning about the sexually explicit nature of the programme before it went on air.

She wrote: "The council hopes that the interests of that

significant section of the audience which, our research has shown, continues to feel affronted by the use of "f---" will be better acknowledged in the future."

Lady Howe pointed out that the codes of practice of the council and Independent Television Commission called for a gradual rather than instant change to more adult material at 9pm. "It may be that a programme will be acceptable at 10.30pm that would not be suitable at 9pm," she said.

In its defence, Channel 4 said that the language used did not go beyond the limits appropriate to a drama serial broadcast in the latter part of the evening. The council rejected further complaints about sexual behaviour, including nudity, and about the use of "Christ" as an expletive in the five-part adaptation of Mary Wesley's novel *The Camomile Lawn*, set in the Second World War.

The tough criticism of Channel 4 will reopen the debate



A scene from *The Camomile Lawn*, the series based on Mary Wesley's novel

about the nature and effectiveness of the watershed as a means of protecting young viewers from sexually explicit and violent programmes.

Some clean-up campaigners want the watershed to be later, such as in France where it is 10.30pm. Broadcasters argue, however, that 9pm is widely accepted by the public. In a survey 78 per cent of parents correctly identified the time.

Channel 4's decision to repeat *The Camomile Lawn* at 9pm, unedited, in spite of a

previous ruling on the same episode, greatly undermines the authority of the council, which has been accused of being a watchdog with no teeth. It is a voluntary body and can only advise and criticise broadcasters.

The ruling is expected to result in further calls for the council to be scrapped. Many broadcasters believe it merely serves to confuse viewers wanting to complain about programmes by adding yet another body to the abundance of existing statutory regulators. Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, has already indicated that it may be merged with other bodies into an all-embracing authority.

The Broadcasting Standards Council upheld complaints about scenes of sex and violence in ITV's critically acclaimed crime series *Croaker*, starring Robbie Coltrane. It rejected complaints about bad language in the programme, which was screened after the watershed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Avant-garde art at risk from grant cuts

New art, including avant-garde theatre, visual art and music projects, will bear the brunt of the Arts Council's cut in grant, while national companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Opera House are safe from large subsidy reductions. In order to balance its books next year, the Arts Council has decided to withdraw money from its projects and schemes departments across all art forms, it announced yesterday.

This means that small arts groups, many of which focus on young people, avant-garde or multi-racial art, will be the ones to suffer. Grants to young writers, dramatists and individual musicians are also threatened. While the new subsidising plans may please the art establishment and those known to be anti-avant-garde within the heritage department, it will come as a blow to those on the artistic fringe. Announcing the new plans yesterday, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, described the 1.7 per cent cut in Arts Council budget — worth £7 million in real terms — as "savage".

Double killer jailed

A man who shot dead his former girl friend and their baby has been jailed for life. David Edwards did not know that Marina Turvey was pregnant when they split up. She refused to let him see Charlie, who was aged seven months when she died. Edwards, 22, of Luton, changed his plea to guilty of murdering Mrs Turvey, 19, after previously admitting manslaughter. He was jailed for a further eight years after the prosecution at St Albans Crown Court accepted his guilty plea to the manslaughter of Charlie on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Colleges examine rape

University leaders are to draw up new guidelines on student disciplinary hearings after the King's College London rape trial. A group set up by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals will advise on which offences universities should attempt to handle through internal disciplinary procedures. Professor Graham Zetlick, law specialist and principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, will head the group. He said: "Universities cannot confine themselves to prosecuting 'academic' offences and would be rightly criticised if they did."

Slander award reduced

A record £150,000 slander award against a doctor who called her male colleague a groper in front of patients was reduced to £50,000 by the Court of Appeal. The three appeal judges said that Malcolm Smith, 38, had been entitled to a substantial sum, but that the award against Alanah Houston, 49, had been "excessive and out of proportion to the damage suffered". Dr Smith's slander action in the High Court had followed an outburst by Dr Houston at their surgery in Northampton. She had also telephoned police and accused him of sexual harassment.

Townshend on the town

The rock star Pete Townshend and his wife Karen left a West End premiere together despite rumours that their marriage may end. Townshend, right, who married 26 years ago, has blamed drink and work problems for their difficulties. They were attending *Me and Mumie O'Rourke*, which stars Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders.



Review, page 5

Heathrow war begins

The first salvo in what is certain to be a long battle over the building of Heathrow's fifth terminal was fired when the British Airports Authority submitted its outline case to the Government. Local councils and environmental groups are preparing to counter it at a public enquiry into the proposals in the spring. BAA submitted a planning application in February and, if permission is granted, the first stage of the terminal would be open in 2002 and completed by 2013. It would be capable of handling 30 million passengers each year.

Escape lawyer cleared

Patricia Marsh, 23, a legal executive from Liverpool, was cleared by Manchester Crown Court of helping Strangeways prisoners to escape from the court where they were being tried on riot charges in February. The trial was told that Marsh had smuggled a pen-knife to her client Anthony Bush, 29, less than a hour before five of the prisoners escaped through the Manchester court roof. Marsh admitted helping two of the prisoners a day later. She was bailed to reappear on January 14, by which time probation reports should have been prepared.

Carreras cancer role

The Spanish tenor José Carreras, right, who fought off leukaemia, is to open Sheffield University's £4.5 million Institute for Cancer Research next week. The institute is based at the medical school at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Carreras, 46, who will also receive a honorary degree from the university after singing at Sheffield Arena, has raised millions for cancer research.



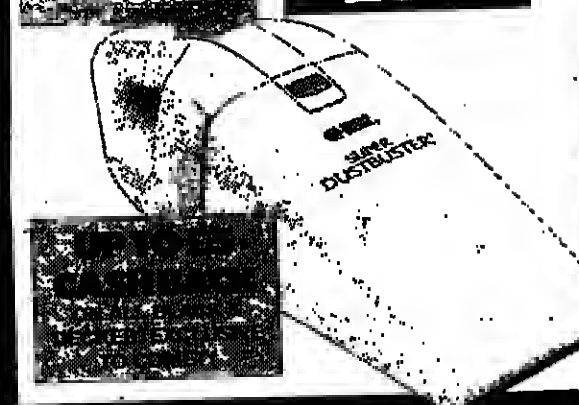
Man run over twice

The drivers of two tipper lorries were arrested after an accident in which an elderly man was knocked down and killed. Police said that they had been held in connection with failing to stop after an accident. The victim, believed to be about 85, was crossing the road at a junction in Crystal Palace, south London. Police said that he was hit by one truck and another ran over him. A street-trader, Stanley Morris, said: "I saw a body lying bleeding in the gutter. I couldn't believe how the world was carrying on. Everyone was walking or driving past, ignoring him."

May Day to stay

Plans to abolish Britain's May Day bank holiday have been abandoned after a year-long investigation by ministers. The holiday will continue to be held on the first Monday of May, except in 1995, when it will be moved to the second Monday to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. The decision to retain the holiday follows pressure from business leaders, who said that a change would disrupt their working pattern. It had been suggested that the holiday be moved to the autumn, to celebrate Trafalgar Day.

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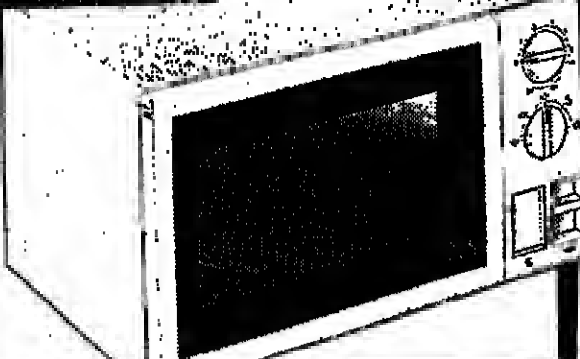
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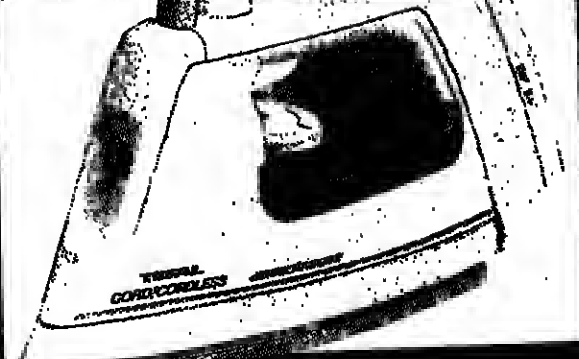
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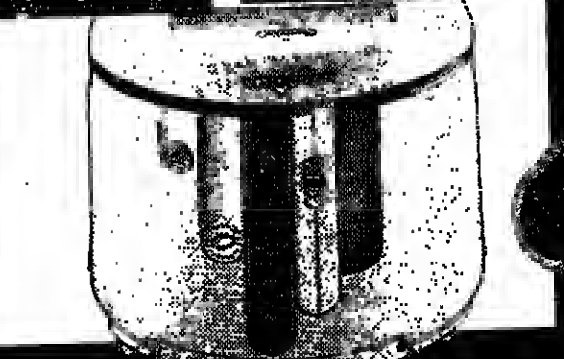


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Opinion poll's verdict delivers blow to Chancellor's popularity

Public condemns impact of first Clarke Budget

By PETER RIDDELL

THE public has delivered one of the most unfavourable verdicts ever on Kenneth Clarke's Budget, rejecting both its strategy and most of the individual measures.

Contrary to Mr Clarke's claim ten days ago that the Budget had been well received by the public, the latest MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken last weekend, unambiguously points to the opposite conclusion. Mr Clarke's statement is the most unpopular since the mid-1970s, apart from Norman Lamont's final Budget last March.

Mr Clarke's personal rating is also around the lowest for any Chancellor, especially one giving his first Budget. Barely three in ten are satisfied with the way he is doing his job, while almost a half are dissatisfied. The ratings of Lords Healey, Howe and Lawson were all consistently higher. This contrasts with Mr Clarke's high standing among Tory MPs and his initial success at Westminster in presenting the Budget.

The Budget has made no difference to the Tories' rat-

ings or to economic optimism. By a two-to-one margin, the public believes that in the long term the Government's policies will not improve the state of Britain's economy. The net unfavourable balance of minus 29 points compares with the low point of minus 31 points after last March's Budget, and it is much worse than the ratings throughout the Thatcher years. The high point of plus 18 points was during the late 1980s boom.

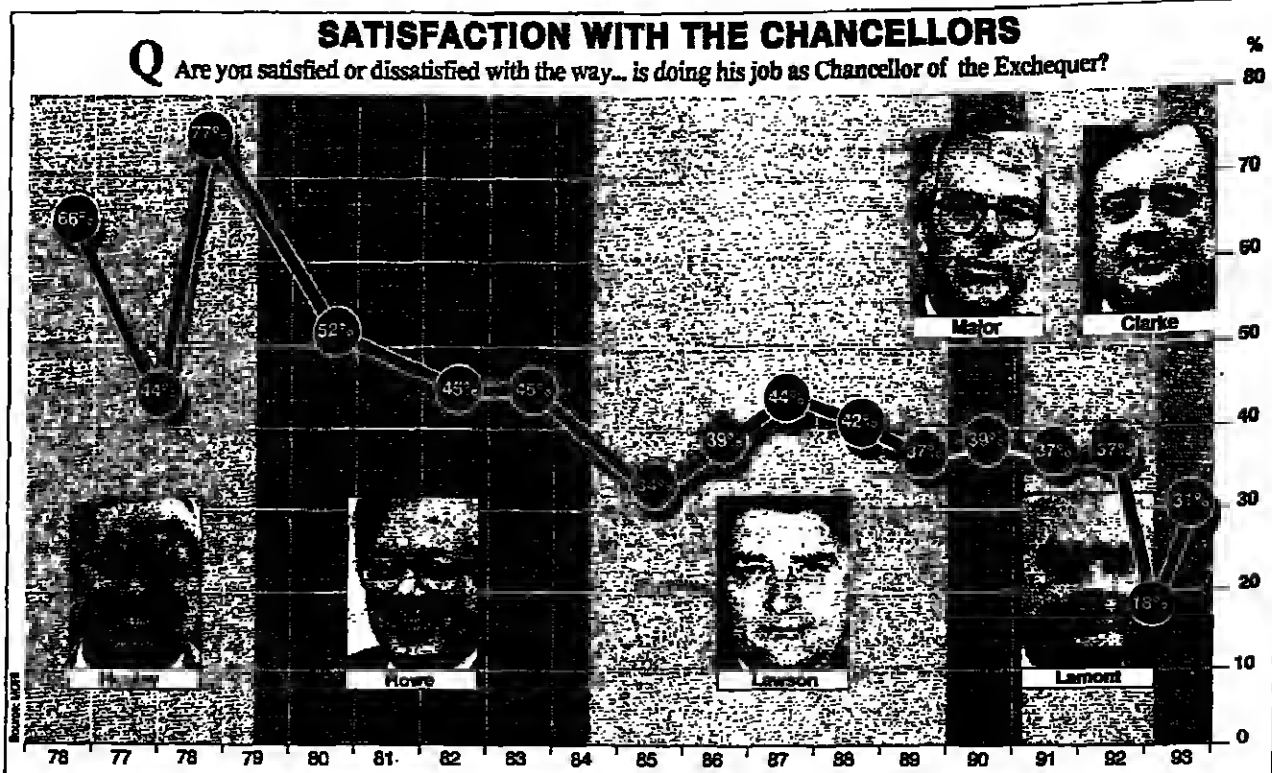
People also believe by large margins that the Budget is bad for the country and for them personally. In both cases this is the worst reception since the mid-1970s, apart from last March. More than three-fifths believe that the Budget is bad for them personally, and only one in six believes it will be a good thing for them. By contrast, the public saw most of the tax-cutting Budgets of the mid-1980s as good for them personally.

The public thinks the Budget proposals will be less bad for the country than for them personally. About three in ten

think the Budget will be good for the country, while just over a half believe it will be bad. The net balance of minus 25 points compares with minus 46 points on the personal impact of the measures.

The regular monthly index of economic optimism also remains negative, reflecting public doubts about the nature of the recovery. This index, measuring the balance between those who believe the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is now minus six points, broadly the same level as throughout the autumn.

People are also highly critical of specific Budget measures. The confirmation that VAT on domestic fuel will be imposed from next April has been rejected by a margin of nearly nine-to-one. The new tax on insurance premiums is opposed by nearly three and a half-to-one, and limits on the automatic right to unemployment benefits by two-to-one. The freeze on public sector pay is rejected by nearly two-to-one.



The proposal to raise the retirement age for women to 65, the same as for men, is opposed by three-fifths of the public and backed by only a third. There is, however, a difference in the views of men and women on this issue. The net balance opposed to the proposal rises from minus 17 points among men to minus 33 points among women. Opposition to equalising the retirement age is highest among 35- to 64-year-olds and among working-class people.

The only proposal of the six tested which was backed by the public is the introduction

of an airline departure tax on flights out of Britain. Some 49 per cent back the measure, while 38 per cent oppose it. This may reflect a belief that the tax will be paid mainly by foreigners and the wealthy. MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,738 adults at 130 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on December 9 to 13. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (8 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or refuse to name a party (3 per cent).

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Upturn for Major comforts Tories

By PETER RIDDELL

John Major's rating as Prime Minister has picked up slightly from the record low levels of the summer, but there are no signs of any recovery in overall support for the Tories.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* puts the Tories at 29 per cent, the same level as over the previous seven months.

Labour is at 47 per cent for the second month running. There has been a small shift towards Labour from the Liberal Democrats, whose rating has slipped from 25 to 20 per cent since the late summer.

The only comfort for the Government is the tentative evidence of an upturn in Mr Major's rating. The proportion satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister is now 24 per cent, compared with 21 per cent last month, and a low of 19 per cent in mid-summer. This is the highest rating since April.

There has been a shift in Mr Major's favour among Conservative Party support-

ers. The net balance of Conservatives, those satisfied less those dissatisfied, is now plus 23 points compared with plus 11 points in September. However, Mr Major's current rating is still much lower than it was during his first two years as Prime Minister.

There has also been no improvement in the Government's rating. Only 13 per cent are satisfied with the way in which it is running the country, with 80 per cent dissatisfied. John Smith has a small positive rating as Labour Leader, but a quarter of the public has still not made up its mind about him.

Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, enjoys the largest positive rating in the poll, though the margin of satisfaction, now plus 13 points, has slipped during the autumn months. This may be because the Liberal Democrats have not attracted much publicity since their party conference in Torquay three months ago.

Gatt deal 'superb outcome' for UK

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday hailed the Gatt agreement as a "superb" deal for Britain which would create 400,000 extra jobs over the next decade and bring down prices.

The Prime Minister claimed that the settlement, reached after seven years of talks, provided a "platform for recovery, growth and jobs", and Britain stood to be one of the biggest gainers.

In an upbeat Commons statement Mr Major said that the deal would help British industry by bringing down export barriers, would give manufacturers greater protection against copyright piracy, and would bring down the price of food, electronics and other manufactured goods. "After seven years of long, hard and often fraught negotiations, it is a superb outcome," he said. "It removes the threat of collapse of the world trade system."

Britain was the world's fifth largest exporter of goods and commercial services, exported more per person than the United States or Japan and already had some of the most open markets, he said. "So we stand therefore to be one of the biggest gainers from cuts in worldwide tariffs, quotas and other restrictions."

An independent study had indicated that a new Gatt agreement could add up to 4 per cent to Britain's national output, generating up to 400,000 extra jobs in the next ten years, Mr Major said. In addition it would bring down prices for consumers, particularly of food, electronics and other manufactured goods.

He said that the Government had played a significant part in achieving the agreement. "The Government has fought consistently to keep negotiations going."

Europe had already started to reduce farm production subsidies now costing each family more than £20 a week. If passed on to the consumer, the changes agreed to the common agricultural policy would lead to price cuts equal to 20p off a pound of beef, and 6p off a pound of butter.

John Smith, the Labour Leader, called for help for African countries and action to stamp out child labour.



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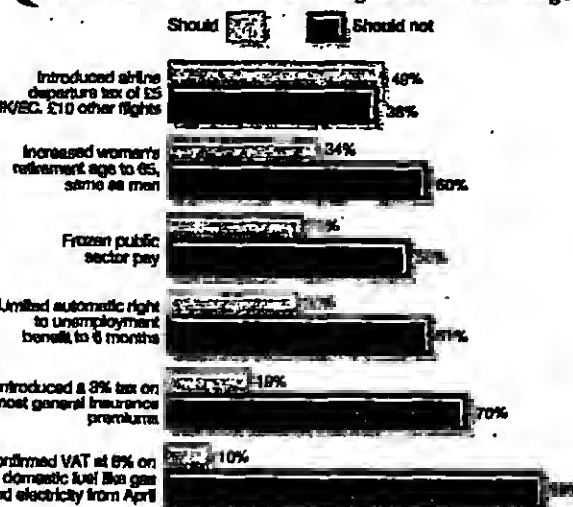
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ELECTORS AGAINST MOST BUDGET PROPOSALS

Q Do you think the Chancellor should or should not have done each of the following in his recent Budget?



The public gives its verdict on Budget measures

MPs call for Bank reforms

By JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE pressure on the Chancellor to grant more autonomy to the Bank of England intensified yesterday with a report from an all-party committee of MPs calling for sweeping changes to the relationship with the Treasury.

The report, from the influential Commons Treasury Select Committee, will be particularly closely examined in Whitehall because of the striking consensus achieved between all but one of its 11 members. Only Diane Abbott, the left-wing MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, refused to sign up to the report's recommendations.

The report calls for the Bank of England to be given full responsibility for the operation of monetary policy, while being made directly accountable to Parliament for its actions for the first time. The Bank would be legally required to aim for stable prices "as its primary objective" and would set the level of interest rates. However, it explicitly rejects the German model of a fully independent central bank because of the lack of democratic controls of the Bundesbank.

The committee's enquiry was initiated in March in the wake of sterling's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. Lord Lawson and Norman Lamont have also both called for greater autonomy for the Bank to give more credibility to Britain's monetary policies on international financial markets.

Pennington, page 27

In Parliament

THE Commons rises today for the Christmas recess until January 11. Yesterday Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, announced that the Easter break will be from March 31, the Thursday before Good Friday, until Tuesday, April 12. Commons today (9.30): Christmas recess debates on a variety of topics. Lords (11): Debate on design of banknotes and coins.

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Gatt deal 'superb outcome' for UK

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GATT deal yesterday was a superb outcome for the UK, said a senior government official. The deal, which would create 400,000 new jobs over the next decade, was a major victory for the government. The Minister of Industry said the deal was a landmark achievement, marking the end of years of uncertainty. The deal would provide a platform for the UK to compete in the global market and to attract foreign investment. The deal was a result of the government's commitment to free trade and to the principles of the World Trade Organization. The deal was a testament to the government's leadership and to the strength of the UK economy. The deal was a major step towards the creation of a single market in Europe. The deal was a victory for the UK and for the world.

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Commons warning for Major Lamont leads alarm among Tory right

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont clashed with John Major over Ulster yesterday, in a signal that the Tory right intends to keep sniping at his leadership.

The former Chancellor questioned Mr Major's commitment to the union between Britain and Northern Ireland in the light of the joint declaration between London and Dublin on the future of the province.

Although Mr Lamont attracted little obvious support from his backbench colleagues, his intervention was an indication that the anti-Maastricht "patriots" are uneasy about the accord and are prepared to harry Mr Major anew if he shows signs of watering down his pledge to make paramount the wishes of the Ulster majority.

James Cran, vice-chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, was one of the anti-Maastricht ringleaders and Andrew

Hunter, the chairman, also had his doubts about the treaty. After fighting off a challenge from Major loyalists in an election last week, they have a platform from which to assail the Prime Minister if he concedes too much to the nationalist cause in his quest for a lasting peace.

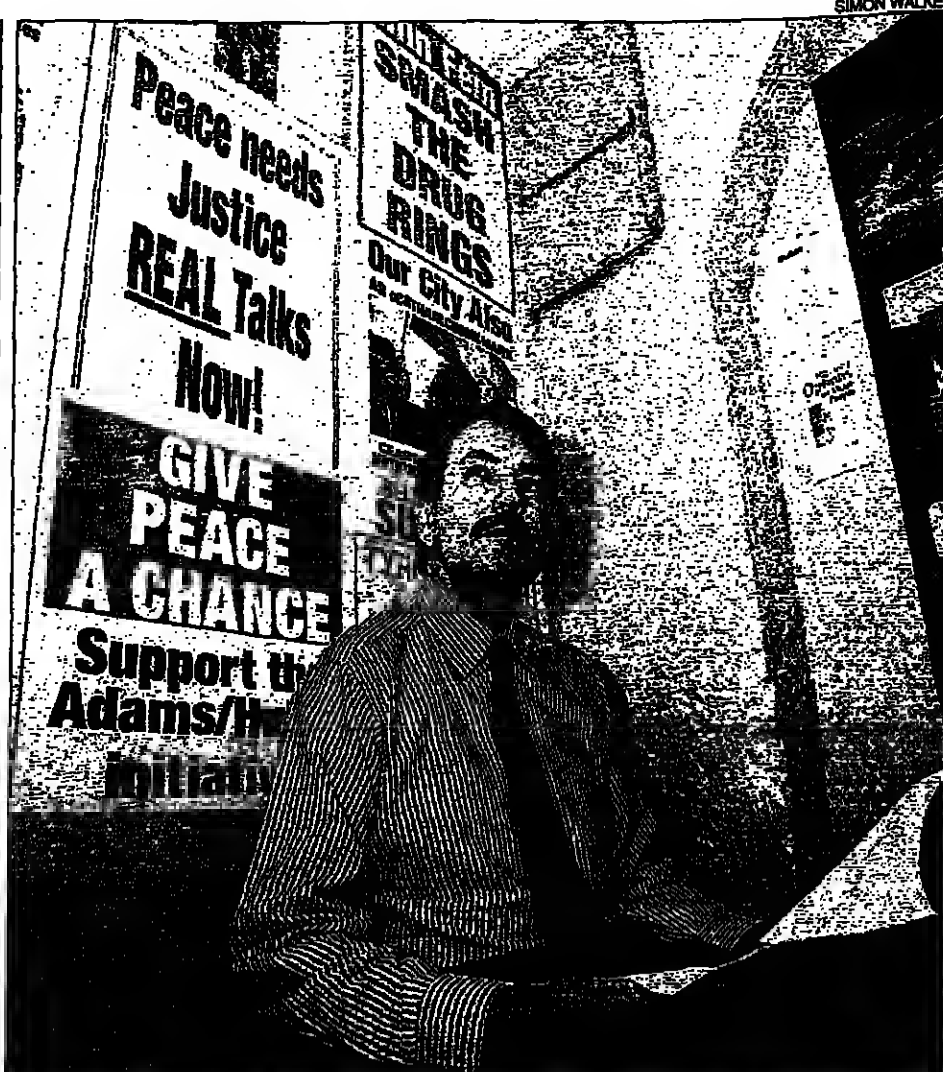
Pro-union Tory hardliners have privately said they will be "watching like hawks" as Mr Major seeks to open negotiations with Sinn Féin. They fear that in the inevitable horse-trading that would follow a ceasefire, he may be tempted to dilute his promises to the people of Ulster. But with Mr Major enjoying Labour and Liberal Democrat support for his peace mission, the dissidents stand little chance of repeating their Maastricht successes in the Commons.

Mr Lamont, who was sacked in May, has increasingly allied himself with right-

wing dissidents. Yesterday in the Commons he asked Mr Major: "Do you recall your admirable speech to the Conservative Party conference in which you said that the union between Ulster and Britain was of immense importance to the Conservative Party, echoing your comment at the election that you stood with passion and commitment for the unity of this country? That stands a little oddly beside a statement that this country has no strategic interest in Northern Ireland."

Mr Major denied that his previous comments stood "remotely oddly" with the declaration. "That joint declaration reaffirmed in unmistakable terms the commitment that we have consistently given to the people of Northern Ireland and that I reaffirm now," he said.

Sinn Féin reaction, page 1
Peter Brookes, page 16



Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Féin's Six Counties chairman, in Belfast yesterday. He said people felt the declaration may not be any more successful than past peace initiatives

Dublin quietly satisfied with early reaction

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

SENIOR officials in Dublin voiced quiet satisfaction yesterday with the initial response in Ulster and in Britain to the joint declaration on the future of Northern Ireland.

Ministerial aides were heartened by Sinn Féin's reluctance to pass instant judgment, saying it gave time for pressure to be applied to the IRA to lay down its arms and send its representatives to the negotiating table.

They were also encouraged by the muted reaction by the Ulster Unionist Party to the document and by the Commons and media acclaim for John Major's initiative.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday he was not disheartened at Sinn Féin's guarded response and was pleased by the reaction from the Ulster Unionist Party. It was important "for everyone to take time" to study the seven-page paper.

Although Mr Reynolds remained careful to avoid triumphalism, observers in Dublin could scarcely conceal their glee at the outcome of the negotiations with London. One insider said: "It is a dream for Albert. No Prime Minister before him has secured from Britain such an overt recognition of nationalist aspirations."

"But he is not being triumphalist. He is making plain that he respects the unionist guarantee and the unionist traditions in the North."

Nor has Dublin any quarrel with the way Mr Major has sold the package to his party and the unionists, repeatedly emphasising that there could be no change in the North without the backing of its people.

"London had to deliver the unionists," a source said, referring to Mr Major's need to placate Northern Ireland parties who want to retain their links with Westminster. "Dublin's job was somewhat more difficult. We had to deliver the men of violence... We always expected a delay," Sinn Féin's initial stated

reaction to the peace declaration was disappointment. But it veered well away from rejection. The reasons for the unhappiness were complex and not entirely connected with the contents of the accord.

Indeed, Sinn Féin was pleased with much of the seven-page declaration. It was upset, according to Dublin insiders, because the declaration had not provoked greater anger from the unionists.

The Rev Ian Paisley's fire and brimstone were predictable. Sinn Féin needed an eruption from James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist leader, to prove to its more belligerent elements that it had made a serious advance. The cries of "sell-out" needed to be louder. Norman Lamont's intervention yesterday on behalf of the Tory right may help a little.

Even so, in Dublin the mood persisted that Mr Reynolds had struck a huge blow for the nationalist cause.

Sinn Féin's dilemma is obvious. If it turns down "talks about talks", it risks losing public sympathy altogether. And if the peace attempt fails, the IRA can expect an intensification of the British military effort against them.

"They do not want to say no," a Dublin source says. Hence the organisation's statement yesterday that consideration would take time and the disclosure that the IRA is to hold its first full convention for some 25 years to discuss the declaration.



Paisley: response to the declaration was expected

Irish press gives warm welcome

By EMMA WILKINS

IRISH newspapers gave the joint declaration an enthusiastic reception yesterday and called on terrorist organisations on all sides to take up the offer of peace.

The *Irish Times* said the Downing Street statement was "a measured and subtle challenge to parties and paramilitaries of all shades". The newspaper praised John Major and Albert Reynolds for achieving a balance which, it said, many had thought impossible.

"They set out to demonstrate that the British Government was in no sense an enemy of the nationalist tradition and the Irish Government was in no sense an enemy of the unionist tradition. By and large they succeeded," it said.

The *Irish Independent* welcomed the declaration and said it had settled the question of Irish self-determination "brilliantly, ingeniously, but also with due respect for democratic principles and political realities". Only "the foolish, the blinkered and the intransigent" could quarrel with its content.

In a note of caution, the

newspaper warned of similar excitement after Sunningdale in 1973 and Hillsborough in 1985, when high hopes of peace were dashed with political opposition and continued terrorist outrages.

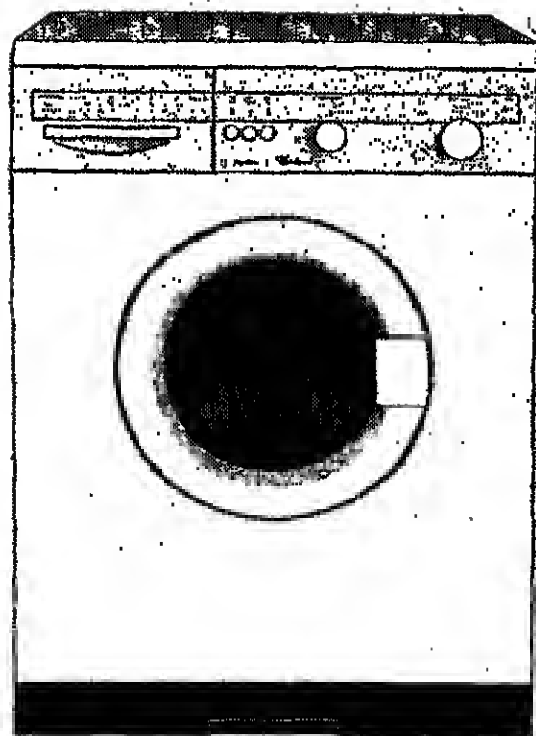
But the strength of the joint declaration was that it offered unionists better guarantees than they had historically enjoyed because "the guarantees come from the Republic as well as from Britain", it said.

The *Irish Press* paid tribute to the tenacity of Mr Reynolds and his deputy, Dick Spring, in their pursuit of peace. "They have well earned the standing ovation accorded them by their colleagues in Dáil Éireann yesterday," the newspaper said in its editorial.

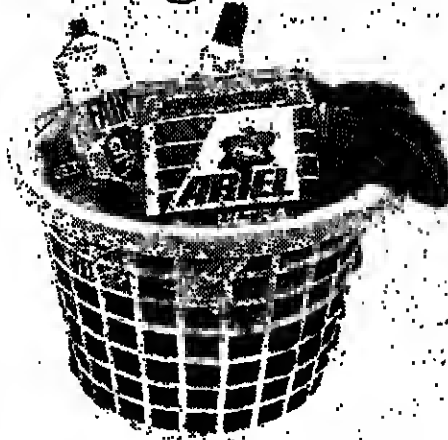
All three newspapers agreed that the reaction of Sinn Féin and the IRA was now crucial.

The *Irish Press* was encouraged that the republican reaction spoke of the need to study and analyse the text of the declaration. "It seems, therefore, that at the end of a momentous day there is every reason to believe that peace may be possible," the newspaper said.

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A·U·D·I·T COMMISSION

The Citizen's Charter Local Authority Indicators

The Audit Commission has specified a list of indicators of performance which every local authority is directed to report under the Local Government Act 1992. This direction, the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 1993, gives details and definitions for each indicator. It specifies the authorities which are required to complete the indicators.

This direction applies to the financial year 1994-5 and the indicators for this are to be published in a newspaper by 31 December 1995.

Copies of the legal direction may be obtained from:

The Audit Commission,
Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS12
Telephone Number (0272) 236757, Fax Number (0272) 794100

The Commission has also published a paper, "Staying on Course". This explains the rationale for the indicators and contains a full list of them. It may be obtained from HMSO Publications (Tel: 071 875 9090), price £6.00. Local authorities have also been asked to make copies of both documents available at information points and/or libraries.

The Times apologises for incorrectly printing this announcement on 16th Dec 1993.

مكتبة من الأصل

MES FRIDAY
Dublin quiet
satisfied with
early reaction

Formidable paramilitary force ponders surrender of its weapons

IRA peers with suspicion down the path to peace

By MICHAEL EVANS
AND NICHOLAS WATT

SEVEN IRA leaders, elected in secret to mastermind an organisation of up to 300 bombers and gunmen and about 700 other activists, are facing the most crucial decision of their lives. They voted to sue for peace, but are they now prepared to hand over their weapons?

The Provisional IRA army council, whose chief of staff is believed to be Kevin McKenna, a 51-year-old former hunger striker who lives just south of the Irish border, will be at the centre of the decision-making process.

Ultimate authority for approving an end to violence, however, will rest in the hands of about 100 members of the IRA army convention, the supreme policy-making body comprising delegates from every unit north and south of the border. The convention, which has met only twice, in 1970 and 1986, elects a 12-man army executive that in turn elects the main strategy body, the army council.

The IRA's military-style structure underlines the manner in which the terrorist organisation has run its bombing campaign since 1959. Its efficiency and sophistication has advanced greatly in the past 15 years.

The IRA's training manual, known as the Green Book, demands "total allegiance without reservation". It says: "All recruits declare that they shall obey all orders issued to them by their superior officers and by the army authority. Volunteers trained in the use of arms must fully understand that guns are dangerous, and their main purpose is to take human life."

The IRA was restructured in the late 1970s, with the introduction of tight cell formations to improve security. Instead of a single cell, the identity of its members, or the names of the explosives experts and quartermasters, he would be in touch only with

The ultimate authority for approving an end to IRA violence rests in the hands of about 100 members of its army convention, comprising delegates from North and South

the three or four other members of his cell.

The collapse of the 1975 ceasefire, which began in February but lasted only a few months, also brought a shift in the power base from the south to the north and from older to younger men. The army council had until then been dominated by southerners: in 1976 a northern command was formed, providing the vehicle for rising republican figures such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to pursue their ambitions.

The army council, which believes it is the rightful government of Ireland, chooses a chief of staff. Some members of the council have

11 counties, the six counties of Northern Ireland and five border counties, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim and Donegal. It has its own commanding officer, director of operations and quartermaster. It can plan operations without direct reference to the army council, which decides on strategy but does not have to approve every terrorist act. It is probable, however, that in some cases, such as the Brighton bomb, northern command followed orders from the army council.

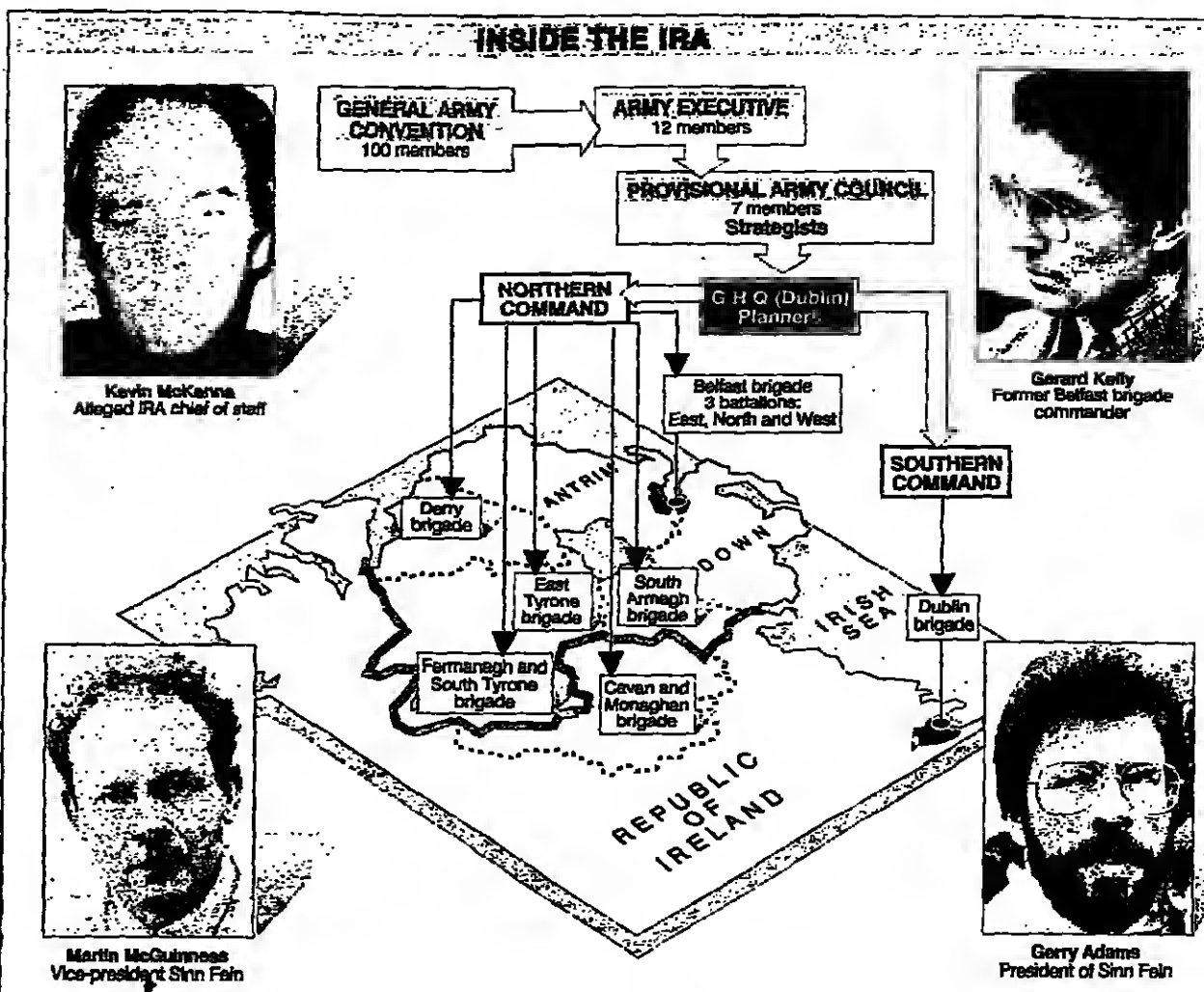
Southern command, which covers 21 counties, has only one brigade, based in Dublin, but there are a number of rural active service units. Southern command's role has been reduced to that of quartermaster to northern command.

One key figure, involved in the recent contacts with government representatives, is Gerard Kelly, an escaper from the Maze prison in 1983 who was recaptured in Amsterdam in 1986 and extradited to complete his prison sentence for causing explosions. Regarded as bright, he was promoted to a senior position in the republican movement about 18 months ago.

He and Martin McGuinness were the two named republicans involved in the secret contacts dating back to 1990. The linking of Kelly and McGuinness was significant because it brought together, respectively, the two principal figures from Belfast and Londonderry.

The seven men on the army council are known to the security forces, but make sure they are never seen together.

Sinn Féin reaction, page 1
Peter Brookes, page 16



Ulster gunmen on the back foot

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE war between the security forces and the IRA has become more sophisticated as each side improves its techniques and counter-techniques.

While the majority of the IRA godfathers have succeeded in evading long jail sentences, the police and security forces have achieved significant successes against key bombers and IRA activists.

The large number of IRA members languishing in jail may have been a factor when Sinn Féin and IRA leaders showed interest in pursuing peace contacts with government representatives as far back as 1990.

More than 1,000 IRA and other republican members are in jail, mostly in Northern Ireland. Another 30 suspected IRA terrorists are on remand awaiting trial.

As one security official in Belfast said: "There are more

IRA members in prison than outside." Since 1969 when the present troubles began, about 350 IRA operatives have been killed, although there has never been a shortage of volunteers to fill the dead men's shoes.

There are still up to 300 principal activists including bombers, bomb-makers and

The number partly reflects the high level of terrorist activity in the United Kingdom in that time.

A special unit in Belfast consisting of representatives from Customs, Inland Revenue, the Northern Ireland Office, the Treasury, and other Government departments, is also beginning to make

from abroad was drying up. Noraid, the American fund-raising organisation, still provides money, but it has to declare its offerings to the US Inland Revenue Service.

The security authorities have also captured huge quantities of arms and explosives in recent years. Much of the equipment was home-made, but included AK-47 Kalashnikovs supplied by Libya in the 1980s and significant quantities of Semtex military explosive.

One concern is that even if the Sinn Féin-IRA leadership agrees to a ceasefire, disaffected members could switch their loyalties and their guns to one of the breakaway republican organisations.

These include the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the Republican Sinn Féin (RSF), which broke from the provisional IRA in 1986.

Guildford Four film a plea for peace, says director

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

A FILM about the Guildford Four had its world premiere in Dublin last night, the day after the joint declaration on Northern Ireland.

In the Name of the Father — an adaptation of memoirs by Gerard Conlon, one of the Four — is bound to stir deep feelings. In October 1989, the Four were freed from jail after more than 14 years when the Appeal Court quashed as unsafe their convictions for the 1974 Guildford pub bombing.

The film, directed by Jim Sheridan, includes violent scenes in which police extract false confessions after a rushed search for culprits. Mr Conlon is shown signing a statement admitting the bombing only because an interrogator threatens to kill his father. The film alleges that there was perjury at the highest level of the police force, and there is a romantic portrait of the real Guildford bomber.

Daniel Day Lewis is a deeply sympathetic Gerard Conlon. Emma Thompson co-stars. In America, trailers have provoked huge interest, with cinema-goers booing and hissing the film's police officers and judges.

However, Sheridan, who also directed the Oscar-winning *My Left Foot*, said that the film's title partly invoked "a plea for an end to the circle of violence."

He said: "It's a cry from the heart — *In the Name of the Father* — like at the start of a prayer. If you are not allowed to express your feelings, a bomb will do it for you."

"Societies and religions are structured around father images," he said. "England became a kind of father figure whom the Irish have been trying to confront for a long time."

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Afrikaners and Zulus bury old enmity to defy ANC

FROM R.W. JOHNSON
IN DURBAN

THROUGHOUT South Africa political movements of right and left strive yesterday to outdo one another in their celebration of the Day of the Vow, previously known to generations of whites as Dingane's Day.

The event it celebrates was the assertion of white supremacy over the black hordes. On February 3, 1838, the Zulu king, Dingane, turned on the Voortrekker leaders, Piet Retief, Gert Maritz and 65 of their followers who had come to negotiate with him. All 67 were murdered.

Impis were then sent to wipe out other Boer intruders: within a week more than 600 men, women and children had been butchered. Andries Pretorius, the trekker leader, led his men to avenge this massacre in the Battle of Blood River on December 16, the Boer army solemnly vowing to God that if He gave them victory, that day would be kept holy throughout posterity.

The vow has been kept, but by the 1970s it had become an increasing embarrassment to a government no longer keen to boast of how nakedly political power over other races had come from the barrel of a gun. Worse, the forces of black

■ The day on which whites long marked their ascendancy over blacks in South Africa has become a cultural battleground. Yesterday saw a new alliance emerge

resistance began to mark the day in a spirit of defiance, for it had always rankled that whites should so crassly celebrate a black defeat.

With the races thus celebrating the day with opposing motives of military and cultural bitterness, it became clearer with every passing year that far from uniting the country, this public holiday was poisoning the Christmas period with freshly emphasised racial division.

But the government could hardly abolish the holiday: to do so would mean Calvinist Afrikanerdom was going back on its solemn vow to the Almighty. Among the *volk* the celebration was increasingly taken over by the more hardline elements, eager to seize upon the slightest sign of government betrayal of the white heritage. So, hoist with its own petard, the government has sought refuge in successive attempts to rename and refocus the celebration — none of which has worked.

This year, the last summer

of white South Africa, the celebrations reached a new frenzy of rhetoric and farce. The Afrikaners' holy place, the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria, was cordoned off a day in advance by Eugene Terre-Blanche and his Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Yesterday the monument was encircled by a laager of ox wagons while Mr Terre-Blanche gave a warning that the Boer nation was again ready for war if need be.

Meanwhile, at Blood River itself, an even more emotive ceremony was led by General Constand Viljoen of the Afrikaner Volksfront in the same spirit of resistance to black majority rule. The general's wife, Rusty, read out the vow to the faithful who had made it across dirt roads to this remote part of Natal.

Not far away, a gathering of about 10,000 Zulus were urged by King Goodwill Zwelithini, their present monarch, to defy the African National Congress and the interim constitution. Speaking



Voortrekkers blaze away at Dingane's warriors during the Battle of Blood River, a day marked ever since by Afrikaners

at Isandhlwana, the site of the Zulus' greatest victory — over the British army in 1879 — and flanked by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, King Goodwill declared: "I will die rather than insult the memory of my great ancestral kings by handing over the

land of their people to our political enemies. You must be prepared to pay that price for this second invasion."

King Goodwill said the government and the African National Congress had removed the word *KwaZulu* from the draft constitution. "In other

words", he said, "Zulus no longer have a place for the Zulus. We will not be subjugated by a political party which wants to destroy us simply because it wants to rule. We can give no quarter until we achieve our right to self-determination. Until we

get what is justly ours, there can be no rest for any true Zulu. Resist. I command you. Resist. I implore you."

For Chief Buthelezi, the point of such a ceremony now is to assert the pride of the Zulu people. Not least of the present ironies is that Chief

Buthelezi, now in alliance with Messrs Terre-Blanche and Viljoen, should have celebrated December 16 in a spirit so contrary to theirs.

Not to be left out, the ANC chose to honour its own guerilla army, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), by their own celebration in Durban, though in the more sedate surroundings of Currie's Fountain cricket ground. It was a low-key affair, dominated by Harry Gwala, the militant Natal ANC leader, who used the occasion to threaten Chief Buthelezi with being torn limb from limb if he did not bow to the will of the people.

In fact, it is the end of the line for Umkhonto, for it is about to be absorbed into the South African Army.

It was, presumably, the last Dingane's Day ever: no good reason can be imagined for such a holiday to continue if racial reconciliation is to be achieved in South Africa. If so, its ending will be regretted by some bitter-end whites, and by some blacks who would like to assert their own victory that is now upon us. But mainly it will be the lovers of low farce who feel the most acute nostalgia at the passing of the Day of the Vow.

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pilot error blamed for Airbus disaster

Paris: Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, is to modify switches on the flight deck of A320 airbuses after an enquiry reported yesterday that pilot error was the likely cause of the 1992 crash on Mont Saint Odile, eastern France, in which 37 people died (Charles Bremner writes).

The commission reported three possible causes for the disaster in which an Air Inter flight from Lyons, approaching Strasbourg, descended four times faster than the expected 800 feet per minute. Alain Moonier, who chaired the commission, said the most likely causes were that the pilots confused the two modes of descent, governing rate and angle, commanded by a single button on the instrument panel or set the wrong descent rate. The third possibility, which he considered unlikely, was a fault in the automatic pilot.

Bernard Bosson, the Transport Minister, last night announced plans to give French Airbus pilots more training in team work.

JFK files offer

Paris: President Castro has offered to open Cuban security service files on the murder of President Kennedy, which he described as a conspiracy. A Cuban security official has said that two Cuban anti-revolutionaries and three Chicago gangsters fired at Kennedy. (Reuters)

Bugging claim

Athens: A report to Greece's parliament has accused Constantine Mitsotakis, a former prime minister, and his daughter, Dora Bakoyianni, a former culture minister, of involvement in illegal eavesdropping, such as phooee tapping. (Reuters)

Leader treated

Minsk: President Shushkevich of Belorussia fell ill and was taken to hospital after being accused of embezzlement and misuse of public funds at a parliamentary hearing. He denied the allegations. (Reuters)

Three killed

Oakland, California: Three people, including a police officer, were killed in a gun battle that broke out after a dog owner refused to turn over his pit bull to an animal control officer. The owner and his father also died. (Reuters)

President dies

Washington: President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau of Fiji has died, aged 75, in a Washington hospital where he was being treated for a third time for a blood disorder, a Fiji embassy spokesman said here. (AFP) Obituary, page 23

Hippo violence

Yaounde: A herd of 100 aggressive hippopotami is terrorising fishermen and herders near Lake Fianga in northern Cameroon. Two women drowned after the hippos capsized their dugout. A cow grazing by the lake was also killed. (Reuters)



Lee led a campaign against corruption

Leader in Seoul resigns over Gatt

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE completion of the Gatt accord claimed its first political victim yesterday as Hwang In Sung, Prime Minister of South Korea, resigned, saying that he was taking the blame for not stopping the gradual opening of the country's rice market.

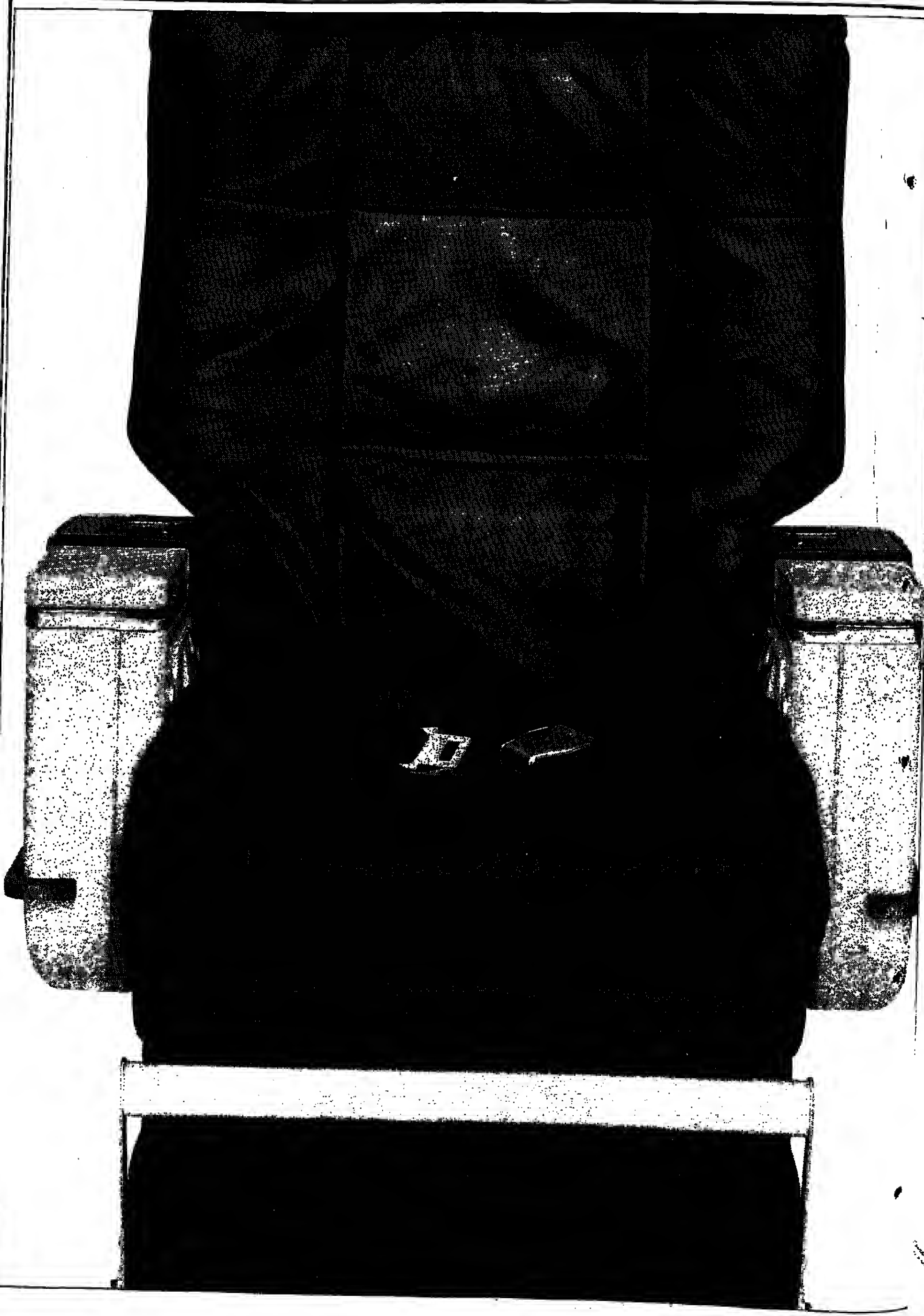
President Kim Young Sam appointed his top anti-corruption official, Lee Hol Chang, 58, as Prime Minister as a prelude to a wider cabinet reshuffle intended to calm public anger at South Korea agreeing to allow foreign competition in its rice market. On Wednesday, students attempted to storm the American embassy, but were beaten back by police.

The National Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the appointment of Mr Lee, an independent-minded former supreme court justice. He had led a drive to rid South Korea of rampant corruption and influence-peddling since being appointed head of the Board of Audit and Inspection when Mr Kim took office in February.

In India, the Opposition demanded the resignation of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, as they paralysed parliament with protests at the government's endorsement of the accord. They called the treaty a "black day" for Indian farmers who could be hit hard by reduced agricultural subsidies.

Elsewhere, however, most governments welcomed the treaty. In Japan, Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, described the accord as a "comprehensive and historic undertaking without precedent", and pledged that Japan would continue to deregulate its economy further.

China, which is seeking readmission to Gatt, saw the agreement as playing a balancing role in world trade. In Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister, welcomed the accord, saying that "it would lead to orderly trade in the world", while in Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister, said "small countries like Singapore were under no delusion that they can shut out the world".



Kremlin looks for scapegoats amid moves to prosecute Zhirinovsky for stirring ethnic strife

Yeltsin hints at legal move to muzzle neo-Fascist

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

A SENIOR security official said yesterday that the authorities should consider legal action against Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the neo-Fascist leader whose Liberal Democratic Party captured, at the latest count, nearly a quarter of the votes in the parliamentary elections.

In the first formal call for action to stem Mr Zhirinovsky's outpourings on ethnic and national matters, Sergei Stepashin, the First Deputy Security Minister, said: "The prosecutor's office and Security Ministry cannot ignore appeals by the Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party which instigate ethnic strife and advocate national exclusivity." This lends weight to rumours that President Yeltsin is planning to use the Security Ministry to constrain the Liberal Democrats' activities and may even be considering banning the party as unconstitutional.

In the first spat of person-

nel changes following the pro-reform democrats' poor showing, Mr Yeltsin has sacked Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of Ostankino Commonwealth television. The sacrifice of Mr Bragin, a supporter of Mr Yeltsin, indicates that the Yeltsin camp is looking for scapegoats for its own failure to convince voters. An unscheduled documentary about Mr Zhirinovsky, broadcast on the eve of the election and showing him as a tyrant intent on world domination, was so crude that it strengthened sympathy for Mr Zhirinovsky as a hounded outsider, the station's board of directors told the Kremlin.

Sergei Stankevich, one of the President's advisers, and Aleksandr Kozlov, a legal aide, have also been dismissed.

Yeltsin said yesterday that more significant changes in the government were to be expected but emphasised that there would be no change in the path of reform. In a meeting with Mr Yeltsin, Mr Zhirinovsky is said to have offered to co-operate in the new parliament in return for the sacking of several ministers. Aleksandr Kozlov, the pro-Western Foreign Minister, is thought vulnerable.

Mr Zhirinovsky has said that Russia should provoke wars on its borders in order to expand Russian territory and that the Russians should start "thinking about colonies". In an interview with *Kuranty* newspaper on the eve of the election but only published yesterday, he said: "It is difficult to establish borders today. We need to provoke wars between native tribes. To do this we don't even need to wage war actively, we simply need to avoid interfering. They will slaughter each other — Armenians against Azerbaijanis, Turks against Armenians, mountain people against Turks, Afghans against Tajiks, Tajiks against

Uzbeks, and so on." He added: "They — or rather those still alive — will come rushing to ask Russia to accept them as districts or provinces."

The Liberal Democrat leader's fondness for foreign engagement first became clear when he sent volunteers to help President Saddam Hussein of Iraq early this year.

Yesterday he blamed the death of his elderly aunt in Alma Ata on his political foes. His aide, Valentin Minakov, said that Mr Zhirinovsky's relative "had been unable to stand the flow of lies and abuse against her nephew."

The reformers are encouraged by a better showing in individual constituencies, where results are still coming in, than in the party lists. Kremlin officials now believe that Mr Zhirinovsky will control about 78 seats in the Duma and Russia's Choice, the main reform bloc, 98.

Richard Perle, page 20



Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, who supported President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, bidding farewell at Moscow airport this year to young volunteers before they left for Baghdad to aid the regime

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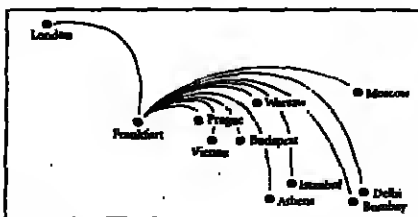
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Russia's war drums set off alarm in Kiev

■ The success of the far right in Russia has revived old fears in Ukraine. It has also provided a further argument for Kiev to keep hold of its nuclear arsenal

FROM MISHA GLENNY IN KIEV

Ukraine's prevailing mood of indifference and resignation has been spiced with a real sense of alarm since the scale of Vladimir Zhirinovsky's success in the Russian elections became clear. President Kravchuk's public utterances are famed for their caution and lack of substance, so his warning this week that Mr Zhirinovsky's rise could threaten "the beginning of a big cataclysm, not just for Europe but the whole world" had Ukrainians on the edge of their seats.

Any prospect of conflict between Russia and an independent Ukraine has all Central European countries worried. Mr Zhirinovsky is still in no position to realise his goals of re-establishing Russian imperial control over the "near abroad", as the former Soviet republics surrounding Russia are known.

Ukraine has been hanging on to its Soviet nuclear arsenal of more than 1,000 warheads, and its intransigence — as America and Russia see it — threatens to derail the Start I treaty and could even throw into question the whole process of nuclear disarmament. With Mr Zhirinovsky's victory, however, Ukrainian politicians claim their policy has been vindicated.

Yuri Zhitnev, the moderate leader of the Social Democrats, suggested that the Russian elections demonstrated that "the Ukrainian policy on nuclear weapons has not been entirely incorrect". Dmytro Pavlychko, the head of the Ukrainian parliament's commission on foreign affairs, proved that Kiev is not without its bellicose rhetoric when he said recently that "if the Russians invade the country, we will fight them with guns and with nukes if necessary".

Underpinning the complex issue of Ukraine's nuclear potential is the simmering dispute between Moscow and Kiev over the status of the Black Sea fleet and its base in Sevastopol. Tensions are further increased by the chronic economic performance of Ukraine since independence and the presence of a large Russian minority in eastern Ukraine.

The general panic caused by hyper-inflation, now heading towards an annual rate of 3,000 per cent, has been heightened by an energy crisis which has begun to hit both industrial and private consumers this winter. The energy shortages are the result of the quiet economic warfare which has developed over the past two years between Russia and Ukraine.

"After independence the Russians immediately



Kravchuk: warning of a global cataclysm

raised the prices of oil," said Anton Sobolev, the Deputy Finance Minister and one of the government's few supporters of market reform. "Factories are enormously inefficient because they receive ridiculous subsidies for this energy from the state in order to keep the managers sweet."

The bulk of Ukrainian economic muscle is centred on the mineral, metallurgical and high-technology weapons industries of eastern Ukraine. There is also where the Russian minority is concentrated: almost a quarter of the population in the region. It is here that Mr Zhirinovsky may find fertile ground for rabble-rousing if Ukraine's economy continues its downward spiral.

If relations between Russia and Ukraine were to deteriorate, then the Russian radicals on the Crimean peninsula could provide the detonator to the explosion. The Russians here have never reconciled themselves to Nikita Khrushchev's generous decision to hand Crimea over to Ukraine in the 1950s.

Similarly, Ukraine is unlikely to relinquish this strategic territory, which is also of economic significance because of the tourist industry.

In the rather drab capital, Simferopol, members of the Russian Democratic Party talk in tones deeply reminiscent of the rhetoric of the Krajina Serbs in Croatia, although their case is much weaker. They are powerless to act in Crimea by themselves, but could be easily exploited by unscrupulous forces in Moscow in times of instability.

Ukraine has every reason to fear Mr Zhirinovsky, but if President Kravchuk and his allies continue to block reforms with such zeal Ukraine will have to shoulder substantial blame in the event of trouble.

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**FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK**

At \$300,000, Mr McDonald leaped to his feet and shouted: "This is insanity!" At \$400,000, he performed a peculiar shuffling dance. At \$500,000, he "chickened out", in his own words, and allowed the statuette to be sold to the anonymous bidder, as hundreds of giggling spectators burst into spontaneous applause and Mr McDonald took a bow.

"I hope they really enjoy it," said Mr McDonald, who became almost incoherent



Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in a moment of drama from *Gone with the Wind*

when trying to explain why he had been prepared to pay so much. "The film, the story — it's the story of our lives. It's joy, it's sadness," he spluttered.

Then Mr McDonald, still wearing a tie depicting

Leigh died in 1967, and the Oscar and other items were offered for sale by Suzanne Farrington, her daughter, who lives in England.

\$100,000," said Alan Cowie, the London agent who represented the family. The money will be divided among Leigh's three grandsons.

The long-distance buyer of Leigh's 53-year-old Oscar has not been named, but the statuette is reportedly destined for a private collection.

Mr McDonald, who had planned to bequeath the statuette to the city of Atlanta, was generous in defeat, missing the opportunity to deliver a line that the occasion demanded: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."



A director of Sotheby's displays Leigh's Oscar, sold for a record sum in New York

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

Special report pages 10-13

Special report, pages 40-42



BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Skopje's ambassador to Britain is expected to be Risto Nikovski, who has been looking after his country's affairs in London from an office on the premises of a Macedonian steel company in Holborn. "I am the best diplomat my country has here, because I am the only one," he said yesterday. Mr Nikovski is

Greece, which assumes the presidency of the European Union on January 1, says the republic's temporary name by which it was admitted to the United Nations in April, implies claims on the northern Greek province of Macedonia. However, President Gligorov said in Skopje yesterday: "The Republic of Macedonia has no territorial pretensions towards any of its neighbours."

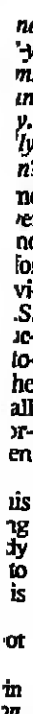
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Algerian attackers spared Muslims

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
in CAIRO

DETAILS of the murders of 12 Yugoslavs in Algeria were released yesterday, as the Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the killings.

The 22 Croatian and Bosnian engineering workers were attacked in their camp southwest of Algiers, with a dozen killed by having their throats cut. Two others were similarly wounded and eight spared because they swore they were Muslims. All the dead or wounded were Christians.

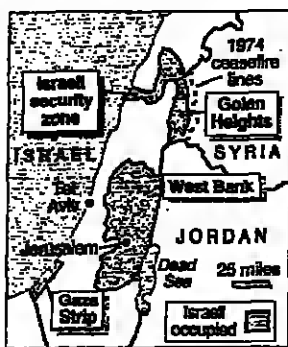
As a result of the attack, the Croatian government announced that it was recalling all of its citizens.

□ Cairo: Egypt hanged three Muslim militants in Alexandria for plotting to kill top officials, bombing government installations and trying to set up an Islamic state. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

Israel orders troops to use force against its vigilante settlers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM



ISRAELI forces have received orders to crack down on Jewish settlers in the occupied territories if they continue to resort to vigilante action against Palestinians.

In one of the toughest measures taken to curb the activities of militant settlers, Israeli officers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been issued with a ten-page pamphlet instructing them to use force if necessary against fellow Israelis to keep the peace.

The army would not divulge details of the orders, but they include practices widely used against Palestinian demonstrators, including summary arrests, physical force and curfews. The orders were given after increasing criticism from cabinet ministers on the apparent failure of the army to prevent settler violence, in part used to undermine public support for the peace process.

Since the signing of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Jewish mili-

itants have gone on the rampage regularly throughout the occupied territories following attacks against settlers by Palestinian militant Islamic groups. In retaliation, five Palestinians have been killed, most of them near Hebron.

The commander of Israeli forces in Hebron gave a warning this week that the town could become embroiled in a bloody vendetta war unless he was allowed greater powers to curb Jewish extremists. "My great fear is that an act of vengeance spawns

another and that it drags into a cycle of terror innocent Arabs who might have a personal or family account to settle with Jews," he said.

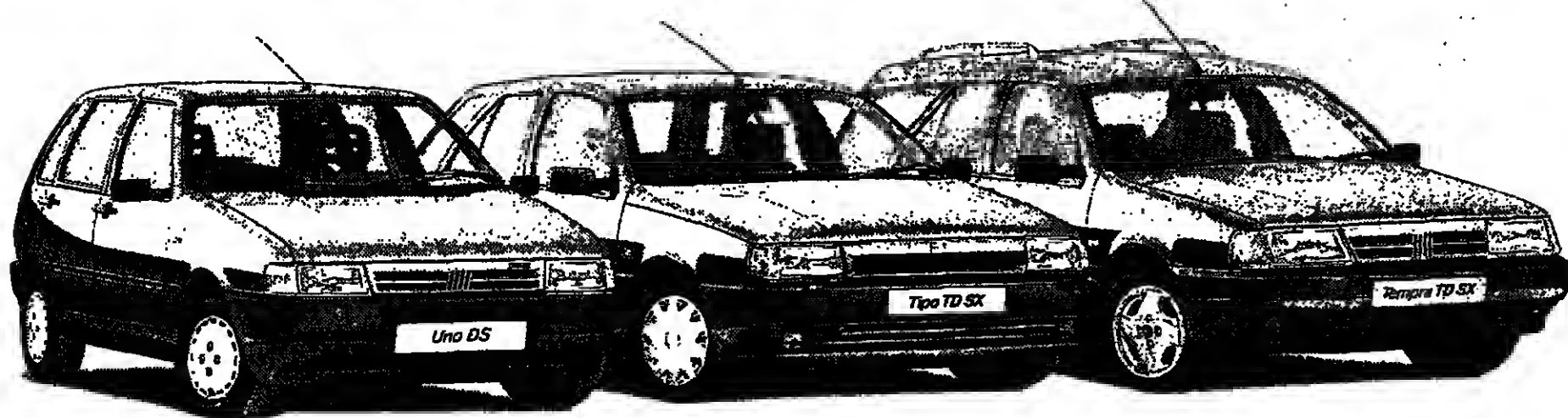
The army's orders brought angry reaction from Israeli settler leaders and opposition politicians. "You cannot give power to a soldier to do a policeman's job," said David Mena, a Likud Party MP. Israel Medad, of the settler council, accused the government of trying to use teenage conscripts to carry out a job they did not want to do and said the settlers would fight the orders in court. Legal experts said the army, as the sole authority in the occupied territories, had the right to act against all residents.

□ Paris: The planned summit between Presidents Clinton and Assad will take place in Geneva on January 16, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, announced. "We need complete peace with everyone and that is why the Syrians are important." (AFP)



Junko Kansaku, a housewife, shouting "I don't want to live with my in-laws!" at 107.8 decibels yesterday during a shouting contest in Tokyo. Masahiro Sagawa, a cook, won £61,000 for the loudest yell at 114.7 decibels

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Japanese tears and tirades as the shadow shogun dies

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TRIBUTES, tears and tirades flowed freely, and in roughly equal measure, yesterday as Japan learnt of the death at the age of 75 of Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister. He was unchallenged as the nation's most influential post-war premier, a man of legendary power, vilified for his involvement in the Lockheed bribery scandal of 1979 and at the same time celebrated for a manipulative genius that kept him at the heart of national policy making until brought down by a stroke in 1985.

Within 30 minutes of the news that Mr Tanaka had died of pneumonia at Keio University Hospital, hundreds of mourners had gathered to pay their respects outside his vast Tokyo mansion. Soon every top Japanese politician had rolled up in a steady stream of black limousines, to acknowledge his role in their own political ascendancy and to give thanks for his wise tutelage.

Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, who, like many members of his Cabinet, is a former member of the Tanaka faction and still closely linked to the group, said Mr Tanaka "achieved many outstanding accomplishments... he was a politician of very rare character".

Standing alone in contemporary Japanese politics, Mr Tanaka was a leader who came to symbolise the era in which he held power. "Tanaka politics", a term referring as much to style as to content, is as clear to Japanese people as Thatcherism is to the British. All sectors of Japanese society share a craving for knowledge of Mr Tanaka and eight years since a stroke forced him out of active politics, bookshops are filled with racks of Tanaka books, some critical, some adulatory.

Mr Tanaka's status in the political world, towering like Mount Fuji over all rivals, was derived not only from his perfect understanding of the utility of money as the lifeblood of politics. It also came from his instinctive grasp of how Japanese political and social relations work.

Elected into the Democratic Party aged 30, Mr Tanaka was made Deputy Minister of Justice in the second Shigeru Yoshida Cabinet. In 1955 the Liberal Democratic Party was cre-

ated from the merger of the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party and Mr Tanaka, as Mr Yoshida's protégé, made swift, sure progress up through party and government ranks. In 1972 he became Japan's youngest postwar Prime Minister, aged 54.

In 1976 charges were brought against Mr Tanaka for accepting a 500 million yen bribe from the Lockheed Corporation designed to convince him of the merits of Tri-Stars over DC10s.

Japanese justice is not known for its speed and it was not until October 1983 that a guilty verdict was handed down and Mr Tanaka was sentenced to four years in jail. He was immediately freed on bail pending appeal, the technical condition in which he had remained ever since. Having been forced out of the premiership, Mr Tanaka then left the LDP but continued to sit in the Diet as an independent.

Although pilloried publicly as a political ogre and attacked by the media, opposition parties and citizens groups, his political influence continued its steady ascent. In 1983, just three months after being sentenced to prison, Mr



Kakuei Tanaka

Tanaka achieved the highest vote of his career and by far the highest in the country. From behind the scenes, and known by his nickname "the shadow shogun", Mr Tanaka came to wield almost unrestricted power over the LDP and national affairs. He contrived to bring down two Prime Ministers — Takeo Miki and Takeo Fukuda — and then effectively appointed the next three — Masayoshi Ohira, Zenko Suzuki and Yasuhiro Nakasone. In the 1986 election, crippled and bedridden, Mr Tanaka topped the poll in his five-seat constituency and won the third highest number of votes in the country.

The highest compliment the Japanese can pay a politician is to call him a *jitsuryoku sha* (man of tangible power). Mr Tanaka was the ultimate *jitsuryoku sha*, the perfect example of what the Japanese expect in their politicians, for he spoke in a language that everyone could understand — the language of money.

Obituary, page 23

مكزا من الاصل

Clinton: contemplating way ahead amid rising approval

PRESIDENT Clinton is ending the year on something of a roll. Two polls yesterday gave him 56 and 57 per cent approval ratings, his highest since George Bush's resignation as Defense Secretary. Clinton's critics make a fresh start in his presidency's weakest areas — foreign affairs and relations with the military.

In place of Mr. Aspin, a rumpled academic who ruminated aloud, we found it hard to make decisions and to get things done. Mr. Aspin is a Clinton insider to military culture, Mr. Aspin is a Clinton insider to military culture, Mr. Aspin is a Clinton insider to military culture. Bobby Ray Inaud, a career serviceman with proven management skills and an impressive record.

Doubts remain about the competence of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State and Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser. But Mr. Clinton's barely replace

Admiral Inman's appointment is unlikely to mean radical departures in American foreign policy. The decision to withdraw troops from Somalia by March 31 has been taken. The Administration no longer talks seriously about military intervention in Bosnia. Mr Aspin has bequeathed workable blueprints for contracting the Pentagon's global presence and for expanding Najo's links to former Warsaw Pact nations.

What Admiral Inman should offer the world is greater consistency and a steadier hand on the tiller, but—as Mr Aspin demonstrated — appointees do not always live up to their advance billings. When Mr Aspin was nominated last December, he

His troubles began on his third day in office when he publicly undercut Mr Clinton's pledge to allow homosexuals in the military by admitting that Congress and the military had the power to "derail this thing". He announced the suspension of humanitarian aid drops over Bosnia - an announcement Mr Clinton immediately reversed. Two weeks after he rejected a military request for additional heavy armour in Somalia, 18 American servicemen were killed by Somali gunmen. In a catastrophic surprise on Capitol

Hill to explain administration policy in Somalia, Mr Aspin said he was still "internalizing" the problems and asked for ideas. Within days he sent a warship to Haiti which was turned back by a jeering mob. He flew to Brussels to unveil his Partnership for Peace plan for restructuring NATO, and so bungled the presentation that aides had to deliver his message. He then selected Morton Halperin, a liberal activist, as a deputy, giving conservative congressmen a plum target. Most recently, he fought the White House over the Pentagon budget, causing Mr Clinton one more embarrassment than he could endure.

"I don't think he was a genius at administration," said one four-star general. "The absent-minded professor may work in the house armed services committee, but this is a job that requires a bulldozer and you have to have a strong personality."

By MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday named Bobby Ray Inman, a retired admiral and former deputy director of the CIA, to replace Les Aspin as Secretary of Defence.

Accepting the nomination, Admiral Inman said he had not wanted the job, and had voted for George Bush not Mr Clinton in 1992, but he was finally persuaded by the president's determination to build a bipartisan consensus on national security. The son of a Texan petrol station owner, Admiral Inman has served four previous presidents.

The speed of Mr Clinton's announcement reinforced the suspicion that Mr Aspin, whose resignation on Wednesday night caught Washington by surprise, had jumped moments before being rushed

The President was said to have steadily lost confidence in Mr Aspin during his 11 turbulent months in office. He

■ The man nominated to replace Les Aspin says he never really wanted the job. Both politicians and military men seem delighted with Mr Clinton's choice

had conducted several conversations with Mr Aspin about his departure during the past two weeks. It had become a question of when and how Mr Aspin would depart, but the Defence Secretary appeared to have made a snap decision in the end.

Earlier on Wednesday Mr Aspin had calmly given a press conference without offering any hint of what was coming. The White House press corps were told in the afternoon that there would be no more announcements that day. In the event Mr Clinton was obliged to make the announcement just as he was about to host a White House Christmas party.

No official explanation has been offered for Mr Aspin's departure beyond "personal reasons", but when a Pentagon aide asked him whether he was going because of criticism over Somalia and Bosnia, budget disputes with the White House or health problems, he replied: "it's everything"

Mr Aspin was said to have agonised particularly over his refusal in late September to grant a military request for additional heavy armour in Somalia. Two weeks later 18 Americans were killed and 75 were injured in a battle with Somali gunmen. He admitted his mistake and congressmen demanded his resignation.

"Aspin was the wrong man for the job," said one administration official. "We knew it, he came to know it, and the whole deal the last couple of months has been trying to figure out the timing of him leaving without making it look like he was forced out."

Mr Aspin is the first member of Mr Clinton's Cabinet to step down, and the first Defence Secretary to resign amid controversy since President Ford sacked James Schlesinger in 1975.

Admiral Inman, 62, will become the first career military officer to hold the job since George Marshall after World War Two. His appointment was greeted enthusiastically yesterday by the military and by Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Aspin is to remain in his job until January 20, so he will see through the Pentagon's budget battle with the White House and next month's summit on NATO's future.



Keeper of secrets gets Pentagon key

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BOBBY Ray Inman, President Clinton's choice to be the next US Defence Secretary, is a man of secrets who would be the first former career military officer to run the Pentagon since George Marshall after

The Second World War. Admiral Inman was summoned to Washington in secret from his native Texas on Wednesday, in advance of Les Aspin's surprise resignation. At 62, he can be expected to bring an austere and disciplined form of management to the multi-billion-dollar endeavours of the Pentagon, in contrast to Mr Aspin's free-wheeling, back-slapping style of administration. He has the advantage of strong support among Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, where his skills are widely admired and his nomination

His service career blossomed as an intelligence officer in the US Navy. He held senior posts under Jimmy Carter, as Director of the National Security Agency that oversees America's spy satellites and signal intercepts, and under Ronald Reagan as De-

uty Director of the CIA, under the notoriously hawkish William Casey. He resigned his CIA post in protest, refusing to accept that the Soviet threat justified broad electronic spying on US citizens.

Civilian control of the Pentagon is enshrined in an American law which forbids serving officers from becoming Defence Secretary for ten years after they leave active duty; Admiral Inman retired from the Navy in 1982. In modern times, only General Marshall, architect of the Marshall plan to revitalise the shattered, postwar economies of Western Europe, has gone from the senior uniformed ranks as Chief of Staff of the Army to both Defence Secretary and Secretary of State.

Over the past few years, Admiral Inman has argued that America should increase the budget for high-technology research and that America still needs spies on the ground who recognise the nuances of language and the culture they live in. He has said: "We will need people who can read the languages ... and not wait for somebody else to translate."

George Marshall, last career officer in the Defense Secretary

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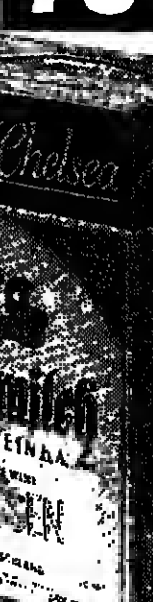
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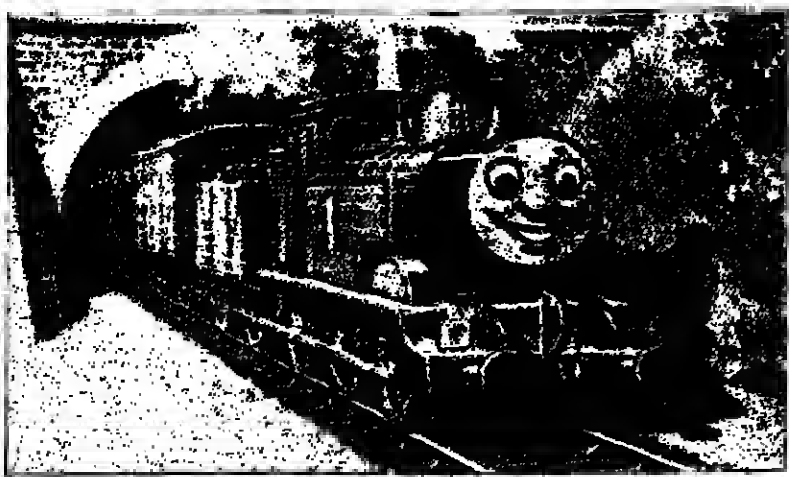
ENFIELD
FURHAM
GLASGOW
HALEBOWEN (BIRMINGHAM)
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Rev Awdry has much to celebrate 50 years after writing his first Thomas the Tank Engine story

The church mouse and his millions



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

After the bishop on hell, and the arch-deacon on adultery came the tale of the country rector and mammon. The revelation that *Thomas the Tank Engine* had made the Rev W. Awdry £7 million in the last ten years brought the television cameras to Stroud, Gloucestershire "like bees to a honeypot", said Mr Awdry.

Far from being ex-directory, Mr Awdry has never concealed his existence at a modest, redbrick house named Sodor, after the island in his tales. Here — silver-haired, courteous, a house-bound widower of 82 — he lives like a church mouse. He sits in the corner of a smoke-filled parlour, surrounded by papers and files. "They seem to think I am a tuppenny millionaire," he says, lighting a Silk Cut (his one expense is 10 cigarettes a day for the last 60 years). "It is the money that excites them. But I started in 1945, after all, nearly 50 years ago..."

To meet Wilbert Vere Awdry (not the Rev Awdry, please — everyone gets it wrong these days, he says: do they call Edward Heath "Sir Heath"?), is to be plunged into a family of quiet and peculiarly English distinction who sound like characters from Trollope, far removed from the world of lucrative television spinoffs, videos, yoghurt and duvets.

He has traced the Awdrys back (it is his hobby) to Elizabeth I, since when they have produced generations of rural rectors, country squires and Oxford fellows; family albums show Great Uncle Jeremiah, upright men of



firm jaw, and Aunt Louisa, seemingly women of submissive mien; parsons' and bishops' daughters who married curates and schoolmasters; sisters and nieces who gave up their lives to housekeep for men when wives were carried off by fever or childbirth...

Mr Awdry's grandfather was born in 1796, his father in 1854; still he smiles benignly on 1994... I admitted I had never come across *Thomas* ("a deprived childhood," he said) until a Kaye & Ward man told me in 1975 that the firm's entire fortunes were founded on the Tank Engine. Then I had a son, and discovered the obligatory engines with faces on their smoke-boxes and their (to me) tedious bickering — "Gordon was so rude to poor Henry that Henry got quite ill..."

The stories, mercifully as short as Beatrix Potter's, 10 minutes to read aloud, had not Potter's period charm or Sendak's mystique. But for the infant boy they were addictive. In 1945 Mr Awdry had sold the copyright on *The Three Railway Engines*, for £40. For *Thomas* he got £70, again outright, no royalties. "Then Edmund Ward must have had an attack of conscience, they were selling so well. He offered me an ex gratia royalty of one penny per copy. They

sold at four shillings, so that wasn't bad. Then when prices began to rise, I still got one penny... after a bit I protested. They wrote back with hard-luck stories, price of paper, skilled work of blockmaking etc. I said, 'Isn't my work skilled?', and got it gradually upped to 5 or 10 per cent.

"At that time, 1964-5, my royalties were £1,000 a year, which Margaret and I decided was, compared with my clerical stipend of £400 a year, riches. So we went into private practice."

But it was with the 1984 animated version for television and its resultant videos, maps, pyjamas, stationery, bed-linen and even pasta, that money began to spin. There had been radio readings before — John Gielgud did some in the 1950s — but the producer Britt Allcroft was inspired to bring in Ringo Starr. Ringo went to visit Mr Awdry; a *Daily Mail* reporter described Ringo's wife Barbara Bach as "catatonic with boredom" during Mr Awdry's recitation.

Well, Ringo's rendering may ensure *Thomas*'s continued success, but I prefer Mr Awdry's own story, a last link with the 19th century, beginning with that name Wilbert (from his uncle William and Herbert). His grandfather, Sir John, had been at Oxford with John Keble; he was Chief Justice of Bombay before the Mutiny and brought home a bishop's daughter who bore him 12 children of whom Mr Awdry's father was the youngest boy.

"Father passionately wanted to be a soldier, but grandpa-

ther made him a solicitor, as fathers then did; and when his partner ran off with the funds, father went into the church."

He was a much bereaved man. His first wife died giving birth to their son Hilfred; then Hilfred died; so did father's second wife; then their daughter Bridget died; then their elder son Carol was killed on the retreat from Mons on August 27, 1914.

"My father had seen the fulfilment of his own ambition when Carol joined the army. He was prepared to accept the risks of war, which had just been declared two weeks before. To have his son killed on August 27 was absolutely shattering. He and Carol had done everything together."

So the vicar and his third wife, Mr Awdry's mother, moved to Box in Wiltshire, "a house we prophetically named Journey's End" — just 200 yards from the tunnel where the GWR climbed a steep gradient and young Wilbert would lie in bed listening to the engines, convinced they could talk. If we pass swiftly

DEAR CHRISTOPHER,

Here is your friend Thomas, the Tank Engine. He wanted to come out of his station-yard and see the world. These stories tell you how he did it.

I hope you will like them because you helped me to make them.

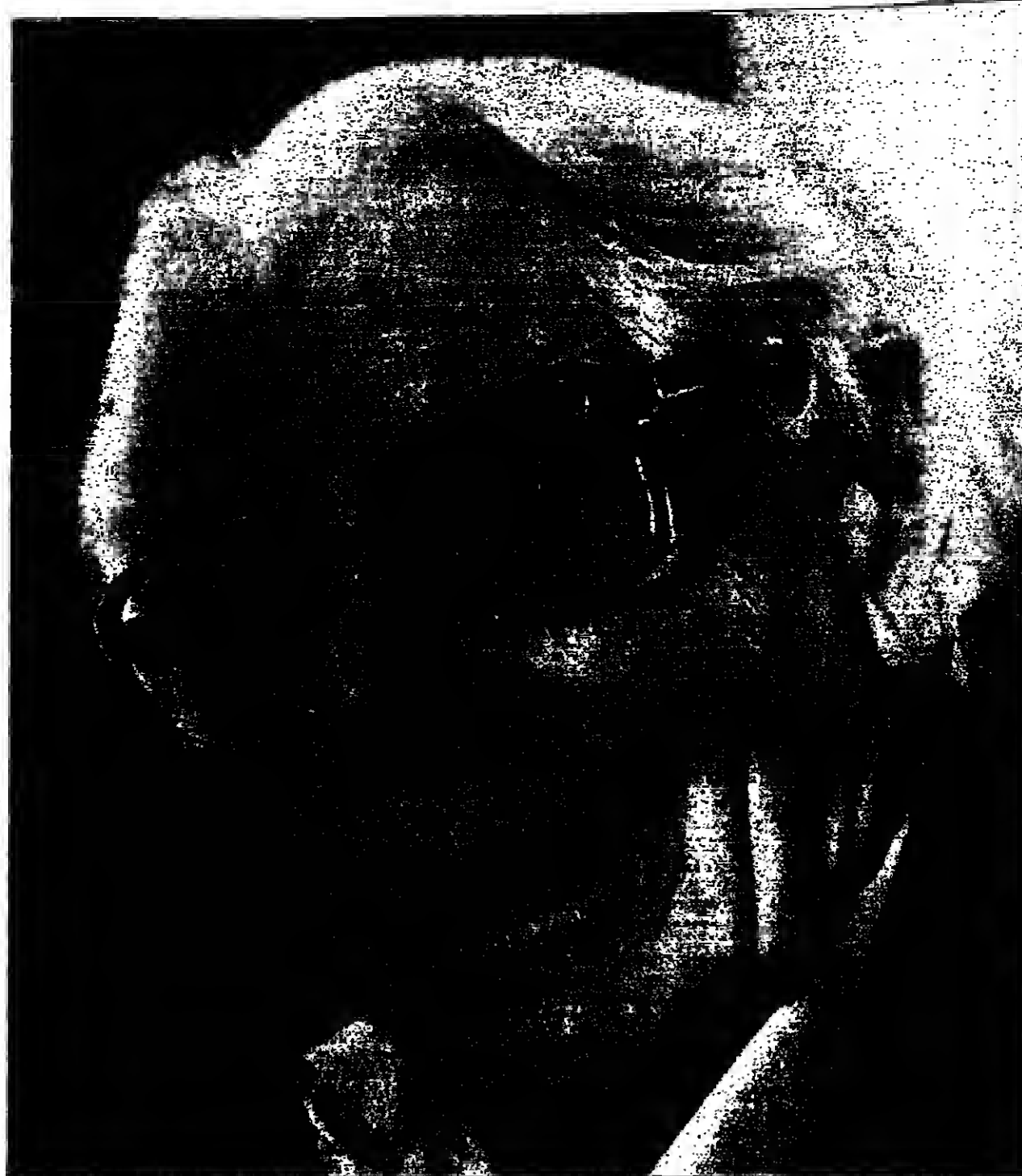
YOUR LOVING DADDY

Thomas the Tank Engine on the right track after 50 years

over his Oxford days (four-man, athletic) and meeting his wife in Palestine, we come to 1943 when their son Christopher had measles and (see letter above) he invented the three engines which were to change their lives.

Mr Awdry will eloquently explain the charming personalities of steam engines, and diesels' lack of appeal; as for electric trains, they have the souls of earthworms: "cut them in half and they wouldn't mind". But the pictures were a

problem from the start. Mr Awdry cannot draw, but while he agonised over accuracy of detail, the artists were cavalier. "The first artist made terrible bores. The simplest child knew the difference between the three original engines. Edward was a 4-4-0, and you know what that means — four bogey wheels under the smoke box, four driving wheels; Henry was a 4-4-2; Gordon was a 4-4-6. Although this artist lived in Leicester and could have seen



Rev Awdry lives like a church mouse despite his fortune, but still draws the media. "It's the money that excites them"

York — and painstakingly created *Thomas*'s island off Barrow-in-Furness (you can buy maps), now familiar to young viewers.

Sometimes the tele-versions of *Thomas* have driven him to fury. "In order to get my stories absolutely right I would rewrite a page 20 times. But they cut them to fit two stories in five minutes, so the whole sense would be lost. No author likes to see his work truncated."

But he was pleased to have royalties from such spinoffs. "It has always been more than I needed," he said. "My great expense now is my minders."

I'd rewrite a page 20 times. TV would cut two stories into five minutes so the whole sense was lost

He has to have living-in help — "I am crutch-borne" — and cheerfully describes the amazing machine worked by an electric pump that lowers him into his bath.

Half of his royalties go straight into a trust fund for seven grandchildren. Mr Awdry gets two-thirds; and one-sixth goes to his son Christopher, who, like the son of *Thomas*'s creator, took over the stories in 1982.

"I'd run out of plots, and Christopher, who was what I call a bloodsucker (an income-tax official, though he never employed it) told me he'd heard a lot of good railway stories through the Dean Valley railway preservation society, so he had a go."

He watches the Church of England bemusedly. When he was licensed to take services anywhere in the diocese, he would find "one week smells and bells, next week no candles, no turning east at the Creed, extremely evangelical. Clapping and kissing hadn't yet come in, but once, which shook me considerably. I found holy disorder, with guitar voluntaries before the service."

As for the new prayer book, he does not care for getting rid of thee and thou. "And I dislike 'We believe in God the Father...' the Creed is a personal thing, it ought to be 'I believe'. No matter how high or low you were, the old prayer book was a basis, and we were all one church." Women priests, however, will come "in the same way as lady doctors came." His daughter Hilary, a lay reader, may become a deacon. Children have not changed much, he thinks, but he admires their skill with video recorders. "My grandchildren wrote out instructions for me, how to press all the digits, but I can't follow it."

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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.75	4.25
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	5.50**	4.57
£1,000 or more	Annually	5.70	4.27
£5,000 or more	Monthly	5.50**	4.57
£1,000 or more	Annually	5.50**	4.27
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Weather girls under a cloud

Whatever the climate at home, television's weather presenters have to be sunny and good-natured

Yesterday Sally Faber was in a "deep depression". She was "under a cloud", with little prospect of "sunny spells ahead". Yet again, a weather girl was in trouble and headline writers across the land were punning fit to burst.

Mrs Faber, we learnt, was being divorced by David, her Tory MP husband, on the ground of adultery. The other man was named as James Hewitt, a friend of the Princess of Wales, thought to be the male voice in the "Squidgygate" tapes.

Once, legend has it, the British were obsessed with the weather. Today, we are fixated on our weather girls. Only a few weeks ago we discovered how Ulrika Jonsson, the former TV-AM presenter had pulled her marriage off the rocks and earlier this month we heard that Tania Bryer, formerly of Sky, had broken off her engagement to Count Gianfranco Ciconia.

According to the Met Office's annual report, 80 per cent of the population watch weather bulletins five or more days a week.

Viewer appreciation of the programmes has surged over the past year, up 5 per cent nationally and 12 per cent in the regions, a feat credited to dramatic changes this year, such as making the map of Britain a slightly lighter shade of green, making the rainfall less

All that they need is stunning good looks

"splashy" and giving the clouds a harder edge. Far more important than fancy graphics, however, are Mrs Faber and her colleagues. These men and women are our friends, helping us to plan our day's activities and cheering us on through rain and shine with soothing chatter

and a diverting line in brightly-coloured jackets. Finding out that one of them has been dallying with a man who dined with the Princess of Wales is as exciting as discovering that our next-door neighbour is passionately involved with a member of the *Gladiators* cast.

John Teather, the BBC's producer of weather programmes, thinks the choice of presenter is crucial. "Most broadcasts are only two minutes long," he says, "and unless presenters make that connection, the audience won't absorb the information."

So what makes the ideal weather presenter? "It's an undefined talent," says Mr Teather (Teather to colleagues). "The term for it in the 1930s was the 'It' factor. The presenter is that person who walks into the room and makes everyone's head turn." Ah, so that's what it is about Bill Giles.

Mr Teather's presenters are not, however, the type to get their love lives written up in the tabloid papers. Suzanne Charlton and Penny Tranter, the BBC's two female present-



Sally Faber: MP husband wants to divorce her

sound, meteorological credentials. Suzanne may be Bobby Charlton's daughter, but she has a degree in physics and meteorology from Reading University. Penny has a BSc in environmental sciences from the University of East Anglia.

Both are former employees of the Met Office, from where all the BBC weather team is recruited and both compile their own forecasts.

Mr Teather says: "The BBC is there to provide quality information. There is a world of difference between someone who knows what they are talking about and someone reading a script from an autocue, and our viewers respect that."

In the world of commercial television, however, things are completely different. Here nobody is required to tell their isobars from their isotherms, presenters read off a prepared Met Office print-out and the only qualifications required are stunning looks and a bouncy demeanour which ensure that most viewers are far too busy gazing at the presenters to hear a word they are saying, let alone mind if they get it wrong.

"With Ulrika reading the weather," said a male friend, "you'd think every day was going to be sunny."

It is these creatures, with no pretensions other than to dazzle and entertain, who are the true weather girls. What marks them out is their utter lack of commitment to a meteorological career. For them weather girling is as nothing more than a way of getting noticed, a stepping stone onwards and supposedly upwards into the dazzling world of television personalitydom.

Ms Jonsson, 26, is now presenting *Gladiators*, modelling for the Gattis catalogue

and starring, rather improbably, in a commercial for Head and Shoulders. She was recently voted the woman most men in the country would like to go to bed with.

Ms Bryer, 31, or "Tracey Sunshine" as she is otherwise known, is the showbiz correspondent for the BBC's *Good Morning* and a fixture at society parties.

It is a route that long-legged, pouting, blonde Mrs Faber seems destined to follow, despite, or perhaps because of, all the publicity she has received this week. Her days as a weather girl may be, technically, at an end — Carlton has just announced it will not renew her contract — but it matters not a jot. Mark my words, in a year's time we will be reading about Sally Faber "former weather girl" and co-presenter of some afternoon quiz programme. Weather girlhood, it seems, is not a job, but more a state of mind.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

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Philip Howard



Whereas the headline can sometimes be more of a teaser

The intro is vital. (Intro is the abbrev for introduction that we in the keyboard-abusing trade scatter casually around to suggest esoteric jargon not available to ordinary people.) There goes the first straight intro I have ever written. I prefer the teasing and leisurely intro that leads readers along the garden path, admiring the agapathus border, before dropping them in the duckpond. The trouble with that approach is that you may lose a lot of them along the way. As the editor in *The Front Page* asks, with more realism than sensitivity to back's vanity: "Who the hell ever reads the second paragraph?" And as Lord Northcliffe had pinned up around the *Daily Mail* office, referring to the mental age of his readers: "Remember, they are nine." In such an attention-grabbing form of scribbling as journalism, you had better let readers know what is going on early, or you may be left with no readers.

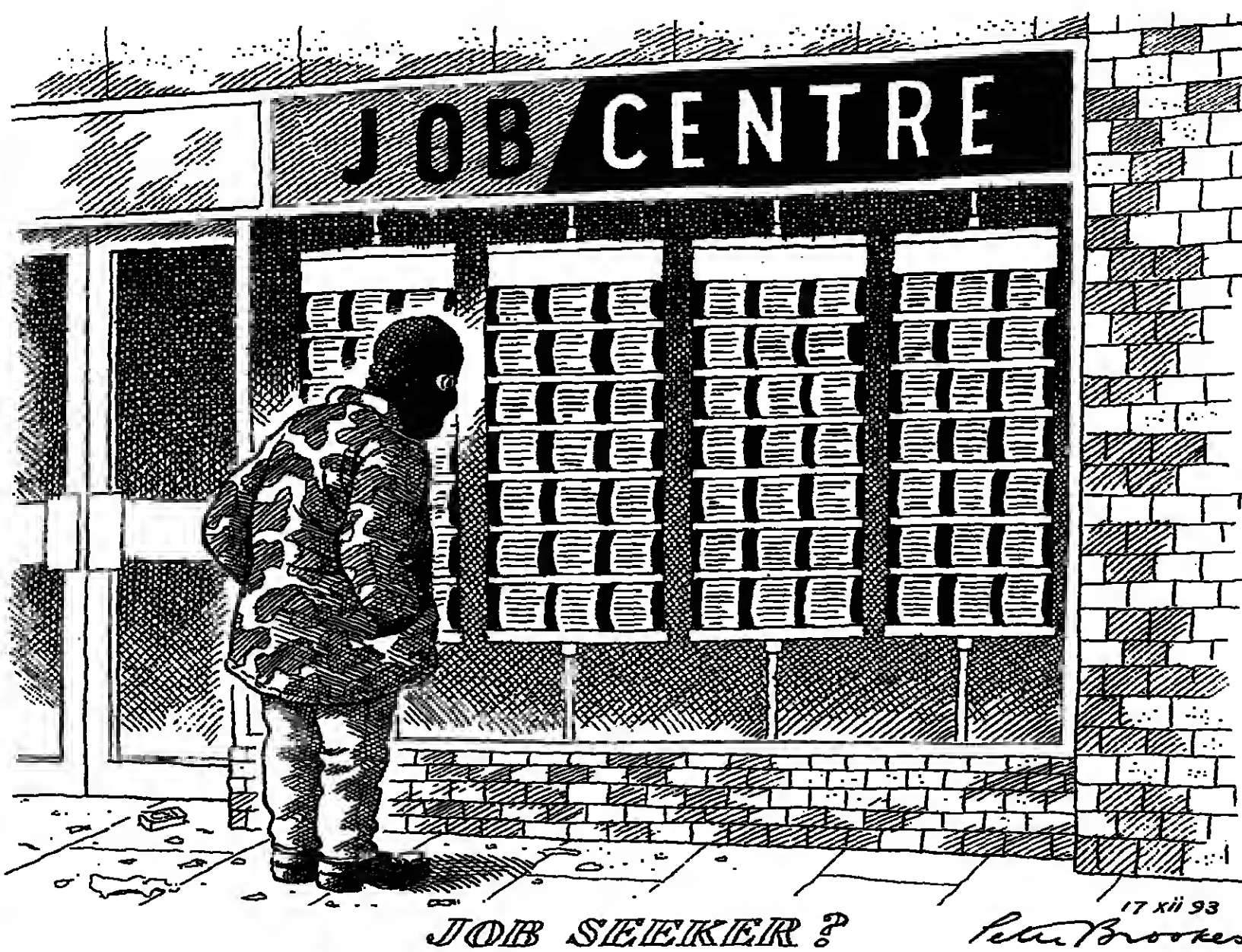
This was not so important when there were fewer voices clamouring for your attention. When you were the only journalist in your tribe, you could afford to start slowly, with an extended invocation to the Muses, ascribing qualities to them that they must have been aware of already, if they were immortal and all-arty, before launching into 20,000 lines of story. There was nowhere else for your audience to go, apart from back to their silent caves. We have had to hurry things up, because there are so many voices competing for attention. If some idiot changes the channel on your digital transistor, it takes half an hour to find Radio 3 again, and while tracking it down, you discover that there are now more disc-jockeys and presenters polluting the airwaves with their crass familiarities than any single one of them can boast as an audience. More has meant worse, and greater choice has produced greater confusion, at least for blue-eyed, digitally disadvantaged shavers at crack of dawn in a lather with buttons.

But, in any case, the best stories usually hook you with their intros. "Damn," said the duchess was taking the barbed intro to extremes for its period. But at all levels, good writing often starts as it means to go on, rather than clearing its throat before getting down to business. More because of the film than the book, "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" is a haunting incantation of an opening. But dull would be of soul who did not wait to see what happened next after the curtain had gone up on thunder, lightning and witches, or on a castle platform so spooky that arrivals challenge the guard in terror.

"When that April with its showers soote . . ." and "Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita . . ." are both gripping intros, though this may be because the rest of the words live up to the standard set by the openings. In *re Dante*, the Bishop of Durham, it is significant that Hell is so much better to read than Purgatory and Heaven, and that nobody could want to go to Heaven while Paolo and Francesca, Brunetto, and some of the others, including Virgil, remain down below. In the same way, *Paradise Lost* is much better than *Paradise Regained*, and its dark hero is Lucifer.

Frazer's intro to *The Golden Bough*, with the sinister priest who slew the slayer and must himself be slain waiting fearfully for his murderer to creep up behind him, grabs the reader by the throat, only to relax the hold with anthropological curiosities from the South Seas. Here is the intro to one of this year's best novels, by a cunning pro of suspense across time: "I inherited the house from my father. That was how it all began. I had heard nothing about it until after his death . . ." No harping there. Most consistent of openers is Sterne: only two books, but two unforgettable intros.

There are only half a dozen stories, and they go on repeating themselves as freshly as if they had never been written before. The trick is to give them a good peg of an intro. For daily journalism, the basic ingredients are religion, aristocracy, sex, violence and mystery. Somerset Maugham — like Ian Fleming a maestro of the Viceroy intro — gave a stereotype: "Christ," said the duchess, "I'm pregnant. Whodunnit?" Nothing so difficult as the intro, except perhaps the end.



Addicted to welfare

We may laugh at ludicrous court cases in America, but the compensation culture began in Britain and is costing us dear

I knew it, I knew it, I knew it. But not only did I know it, I said it, too, and I can recall the very words in which I said it, while the rest of you jeered and scoffed and said "It's only Bernard, going on again". You challenge me to recall the words, do you? Well, here goes, and word perfect: what I said was "mark my words". Yes, "mark my words", I said, and I said it again, emphatically, to make sure that it would register: "mark my words". I said, raising my voice, "mark my words".

Now what do you say? Egg on your face, what? Only old Bernard, was it, going on again, eh? Well, mark old Bernard's words, while you're about it. What I said was that sooner or later someone in the United States will sue the makers of Coca-Cola, not because grandmothers, having taken a single sip, keeled over and never rose again, but because it was alleged that Coca-Cola was addictive and the drinker of it had become hooked, so please can we have seven hundred and ninety thousand million dollars as compensation. Well, it has happened: not with Coca-Cola, but with Maxwell House coffee: two men are suing the makers of the firm who brew it, because they drank so much of it that they became helpless Maxwell House junkies.

Picture the scene: Addict A insists that he was a perfectly healthy man with not a care in the world, and now he cannot get to sleep; Addict B adds that he is now subject to countless headaches. And so powerful is the treacherous ichor that they now cannot kick the habit. (There is another element in the story: the two men are in prison. Well, I am sure that there are enough lawyers in the United States to argue in court that the crimes for which they were imprisoned were committed under the influence of Maxwell House.)

I have no connection with Maxwell House: I use only Jamaica Blue Mountain for my breakfast tipple, heedless of the appalling price, and as for any deleterious after-effects, I have always gone on the principle that if coffee isn't strong enough to give you heart palpitations, it is no good. I come here, then, as a neutral in the forthcoming lawsuit, but with some reflections on the human race.

From time to time in this space, I have brought up to date the catalogue of legal lunacies available in the United States, each of the said lunacies ending in enormous sums being paid out to some

of the biggest crooks in the land. The *locus classicus* was the case of the burglar who, with admitted criminal intent, climbed on to the roof of a prosperous-looking house. He fell through the fanlight, and was injured. He sued the owner of the house, won, and was awarded \$350,000 against the householder.

I said that I have added, as time goes by, to these exercises in *chautauk*; one of these will be familiar to you, for you will have learnt about it not only from me but from others since it was so astonishing that even the American press began to think something rather amiss. But you will not guess the sequel, which has only recently come to light.

There was a man, in New York, who had decided to commit suicide, for reasons known only to him. To this end, he went down to one of the subways, stood on the edge of the platform and, when the train came in, threw himself in front of it. The driver, however, was exceptionally alert; he could not stop in time to stop short of the would-be suicide, but he managed to avoid killing him. The man then sued the subway company — not for frustrating his wish to die, but for the injuries he sustained. As I recall, he got something like \$750,000.

That was the original story. The sequel was that five years after the event, he died again.

From this side of the Atlantic, we laugh or become enraged, depending on our feelings. Whichever it is, we murmur a prayer of thanksgiving that such shenanigans do not happen here. Those noble Americans can do such things, but we British, a sturdy race who are capable of standing on our own feet, need no such coaching.

Well, not quite. The welfare state, in the form we know it, originated in Britain, its creator being Sir William Beveridge. This became the model for

practically all of Western Europe, and many countries elsewhere. Sometimes, I wonder whether if Beveridge had never been born, the world would be very strikingly different. There is a clue, and a very interesting one. At the end of the Second World War, particularly in ravaged Europe, it was argued that the welfare state was not just a way to help the peoples live better, but a bulwark against chaos and revolution. There was one place, though, where the conditions could be studied like a culture under a slide in Hong Kong. The colony had no welfare state, had indeed no welfare of any kind, nor any recognisable material support. The people of Hong Kong had, in effect, a choice between rotting away in something like starvation, and lending for themselves. They chose the second option, and they set to with nothing but their hands.

The result was the first economic miracle. (It is argued that Germany did something similar, but it was not long before the defeated nation was getting help from its erstwhile enemies.)

Suppose Britain had had no welfare state; go further, suppose we had had none of the help that came from the United States at the end of the war in the form of the Marshall Plan. Would we have literally starved to death, while gangs of bandits ruled? Or would we have done what Hong Kong did? I ask these questions because I am being haunted not only by the might-have-been, but also by a single, crisp sentence spoken a few weeks ago by one of those hard-headed American economists: he was addressing Britain, and he said "If you pay a man when he is unemployed and tax him when he has got a job, it is not surprising that there is unemployment." (There is a shorter sentence, home-made in the Department of Employment: it goes "Whenever benefits rise, unemployment rises too". Think about it.)

Bernard Levin

A merry dance

THE PRINCESS of Wales's departure from public life may be understandable, but it could not have come at a more inconvenient moment for the world of classical dance. Although she remains a patron of two national ballet companies, the Princess has apparently ruled herself out as the royal presence at what is being billed the ballet event of the decade.

Many of the world's top dancers, including Sylvie Guillem, Darcey Bussell and Mikhail Baryshnikov have already agreed to take part in the first dance tribute to Rudolf Nureyev, which will take place in March at the London Coliseum. All proceeds from the event will go to Crusaid, the AIDS charity for which the Princess has worked tirelessly in the past.

Lady Harlech, chairman of English National Ballet (where the Princess remains patron) is organising the do, which she promises will be unique. Every dance will either have been performed or choreographed by Nureyev, in a programme devised by his friend Derek Deane, artistic director of English National Ballet. "The only way you can expect people to pay a good deal is if you give them something that they can never see again," she explains.

Her formidable organisational skills once resulted in a gala with John Gielgud dressed as a goose performing a duo with Elton John in platform shoes.

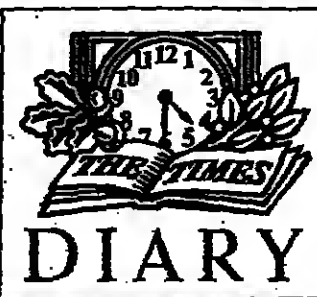
If the Princess of Wales does resist such attractions, Princess Margaret is likely to attend instead. Crusaid, however, has not lost hope. "We are very closely involved in The National Aids Trust, and the Princess of Wales is one of its patrons," says a source, "so as long as we stick in with them, she might still come."

No more perks

AS EVERY schoolchild learns, Lloyd's of London began life in the coffee houses of the City. Now there is a good chance the once-flourishing insurance market may finish in one as well.

Faced with losses estimated at several billion pounds, staff at the market's headquarters — the Richard Rogers building once described as the biggest coffee percolator ever built — are being made to pay 10p a cup for machine coffee. The apparently indifferent beverage has been dispensed without charge since staff moved there seven years ago.

A Lloyd's spokesman admits the



charge is part of the new austerity that prevails. "It's all about trying to save money. This is just a rationalisation of the corporation's catering."

News of the charge surprises the Conservative MP Sir Richard Body, a former Lloyd's "runner" who recalls having to pay for his coffee when he visited the building. "Maybe I went to the wrong place," A sentiment that many names doubtless share.

No riff raff

THE Chelsea rumour-mill is grinding once again, this time over a house chosen as a London base by one of the newest couples in the showbusiness world. Mark Knopfler, the Princess of Wales's favourite guitarist, has bought a five-bedroom house in the area. Knopfler has yet to move in, for builders are still hard at work in

the £1.6 million home, but one can be certain that the improvements will cater to the new woman in the Dire Straits star's life. Kitty Aldridge, who starred as Francis Urquhart's fetching political adviser in the recent BBC series *To Play the King*, was apparently instrumental in the choice of abode. Despite reports that the couple do not live together, she was spotted by neighbours viewing the property on more than one occasion.

Nicholas Spaans, our splendidly-proportioned junior agriculture minister, was hoping to counter any pre-nuptial nerves with a spot of shooting today. But Spaans, who marries Serena Smith next week, has now been forced to cancel his sporting preparations. Thanks to fellow Conservative MP Harry Greenwood, his presence is required in the Commons to respond to an adjournment debate — on animal rights.

Twice blessed

THE scroll of honours bestowed on Lord St John of Fawsley grows ever longer. Next month, the Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, receives a doctorate from the other place: a D.Lit from Oxford University. But this is no honorary doctorate. St John has been working on the subject of his thesis, Walter

Bagehot and constitutional law, for quarter of a century. Having submitted his efforts to the scrutiny of two examiners, he has passed with flying colours and will receive the honour at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre next month, in the presence of fellow peers Lord Runcie and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead.

And he has been excelling in matters athletic as well as cerebral. "I am really delighted by this mark of recognition from Oxford. But I am equally pleased to have been elected president of the Emmanuel boat club," confides the eternal student.

Not renowned for physical exertion, St John confides that he did not row at Cambridge, but was captain of boats at his school, Ratcliffe. "I shall go down and take a great interest," says the peer, who lists among his hobbies sleeping, talking and appearing on television. "But my role will be inspirational."

Bagehot and constitutional law, for quarter of a century. Having submitted his efforts to the scrutiny of two examiners, he has passed with flying colours and will receive the honour at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre next month, in the presence of fellow peers Lord Runcie and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead.

Blob's your uncle

EVEN friends of John Redwood have been heard to bemoan his lack of the human touch at times. But the ultra-dry Welsh Secretary yesterday took steps to answer their worries by disclosing a secret admiration for the television character Mr Blobby.

"Mr Blobby is a round, nice person and no one has a bad thing to say about him," the young Cabinet minister told a CBI lunch in Cardiff. "I want to be as popular as him."

But any plans Redwood might have to double his weight and come out in pink and yellow spots has been stymied by a Cabinet colleague who points out a serious drawback. He'd clash with the Chancellor.

Expect a low profile from our new man in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, where diplomatic relations were established yesterday. The Foreign Office could not help with a polite request for a photograph of Tony Millson. "But they're available from the Central Office of Information — about £71 each."



Disarming Russia's Right

Demilitarise and prosper, advises

Richard Perle

There is so much counterfeit money in circulation in Russia that hotel cashiers will not accept anything larger than a \$20 bill. So a recent visitor was surprised to see a thick wad of \$100 bills handed over by the tough-looking man ahead of him in the queue at a fashionable Moscow hotel.

"I thought the rule was nothing larger than a twenty," the visitor said to the cashier as the man left with his converted currency.

"I know," she said, "but if I refused him my life would be in danger."

Sunday's election may have been about who will rule Russia, but for the moment, at least, the mafia makes the rules. That is one reason for the strong showing by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and his ultra-nationalist, neo-imperialist law-and-order colleagues, who bagged a quarter of the vote for — get this — the "Liberal Democratic Party".

Another reason for this vote — and the crucial one — is evident in exit poll data: only a fifth of respondents said they are better off today than they were under socialism. So it is hardly surprising that approval for a constitution broadening the powers of an anaemic presidency was matched by a cry of protest at the dismal state of the collapsed Russian economy. With rampant corruption, galloping violence and runaway inflation, it is remarkable that 70 per cent of voters said they wanted the economic reforms to continue and that a majority were willing to empower the President to act.

Mr Zhirinovskiy's call for Russian hegemony over the newly independent republics in "the near abroad", and his call to halt the conversion of Russia's military industries to civilian purposes, are patently unrealistic. But they are worrying. The challenge arising from the election is about how President Yeltsin and his Western advocates should respond to the thunder on the right.

With the votes barely tallied, President Clinton swiftly said that America was not about to return Alaska to Russia, no matter what Mr Zhirinovskiy wants. But for the Baltic states to the north, or the Central Asian republics to the south, or the Poles or Czechs or Ukrainians, Clinton's levity must seem a luxury to be enjoyed by Americans living an ocean away.

Scant thought the numbers may be, approval of the constitution gives Boris Yeltsin the authority to press an aggressive programme of economic reform. It is his only option. If he wavers, if he slows the pace of reform because the right opposes it, if he indulges the nationalist opposition's dream of re-establishing Moscow's dominion over its erstwhile empire, he will follow the indecisive Mikhail Gorbachev into oblivion.

Mr Yeltsin's only hope is to foster economic growth by enabling market forces to work. But to do this he will have to cut through Mr Zhirinovskiy's every prescription, through every obstacle thrown up by the communists (who ran third), and through the resistance of the military and its supporting bureaucracy. There is no room for him to hedge or trim, there are no differences to be divided between reformers and anti-reformers. Western concepts of compromise and accommodation, far from smoothing the way for change and reform, will only deplete what meagre reserves of will to reform remain after the relentless deterioration of the Russian economy. For Mr Yeltsin and for Russia it will be all or nothing.

Consider the crucial issue of the demilitarisation of the Russian economy. By well-informed estimates, something like 70 per cent of the Russian industrial infrastructure was devoted to the production of military goods and services as recently as 1990. A third or more of the gross domestic product of the former Soviet Union, involving tens of millions of jobs, was in the military sector. (In his years as President, Mr Gorbachev barely made a dent in the size of military spending.)

The continuing production of military products may, for the moment, keep some workers at their lathe and some engineers in their labs, but it does so by destroying the potential value of Russia's scarce human and natural resources, by fuelling inflation in the civil sector and by exerting pressure to supply weapons to pariah regimes around the world. Mr Zhirinovskiy's wish to prop up the defence industry may be dangerous and self-defeating, but if Mr Yeltsin acquiesces, he will be the one to face the wrath of a nation made poorer, while Mr Zhirinovskiy earns the support of defence workers living in a fool's paradise.

One of Mr Yeltsin's most urgent tasks is to unlock the potential wealth inherent in the productive capacity of the military industries. This is a message he must hear from Bill Clinton and John Major and Helmut Kohl, among others. But the danger is that he will instead be told that his friends in the West will be "understanding" if he feels compelled to go slow in dismantling the military-industrial complex.

The same is true of the nationalist and imperial stirrings which Mr Zhirinovskiy sought to excite from a demoralised nation that has only now begun to understand the depths of its failure over three-quarters of a century. The West must not let Mr Yeltsin believe that because we wish him well we will turn a blind eye if he is tempted to indulge his nationalist critics. There are great and dangerous quagmires here. We should be steering Mr Yeltsin away from them. Isn't that what friends are for?

The author was US assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, 1981-87.



I am now in a state of considerable panic. What are they trying to tell me?

Yours faithfully,
TONY COTTE.
4 Northway Court, Bishopston,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.

OBITUARIES

KAKUEI TANAKA

Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister of Japan, 1972-74, and longtime political kingmaker, died of pneumonia yesterday aged 75. He was born on May 4, 1918.



ALTHOUGH he served as Prime Minister for only 29 months, Kakuei Tanaka became the architect of the political system that functioned in Japan for the past two decades and its dominant figure. Having been toppled from the premiership by a massive corruption scandal, he continued to exert enormous political influence through the faction he controlled and its credited with having personally chosen and brought to power at least three subsequent prime ministers.

Unlike his predecessors, who were educated in Japan's elite universities, Tanaka rose to the highest level in business and public life without the advantage of a formal education. Yet after building up a large business empire, and becoming one of the most powerful faction leaders within the then ruling Liberal Democratic Party, he emerged as Japan's youngest post-war leader when he took office in 1972 at the age of 54.

His most lasting act of statesmanship was to normalise Japan's ties with China in 1972. He was forced to resign on December 9, 1974, as a result of a scandal surrounding charges of tax evasion and the improper manipulation of his private business interests. He fell into further disgrace in 1976 when testimony to a subcommittee of the United States Senate indicated that he had received huge sums of money to secure a lucrative contract for the Lockheed Aircraft Company. After a lengthy trial in which he was one of several defendants, Tanaka was sentenced by the Tokyo District Court in October 1983 to a term of four years' imprisonment and a fine of five hundred million yen. He remained free pending an appeal to the Supreme Court, an appeal that remained unresolved at the time of his death.

Notwithstanding his fall into disgrace, the former Prime Minister showed an astonishing political resilience, both locally and nationally. He continued to be re-elected from his constituency in Niigata prefecture in the general elections of 1976, 1979, 1980 and 1983 with impressive and even increasing majorities, largely, it seems, because he was regarded locally as having made the Niigata area into a model of development.

In Tokyo, though from 1976 he was no longer formally a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and represented his constituency in the National Diet as an Independent, he still wielded great influence within the party. His expertly run faction continued to attract members until, by the early 1980s, it was much the largest in the party; his own role became that of kingmaker to successive prime ministers.

The key to this power was his ability to raise huge sums of money from the business sector which were lavished on his political protégés who, in turn, ensured that the business sector donors were rewarded by legislative decisions to their liking.

In 1985, however, Tanaka suffered a stroke that left him partially paralysed and confined to a wheelchair. He left parliament five years later but lived to see the 38-year-old dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party and its factions broken in the general election of last July.

Kakuei Tanaka was born the son of a poor farmer in the then remote and backward Niigata coastal prefecture. At the age of two he contracted

diphtheria and was left with a speech impediment which he managed to overcome in later years. After four years at high school Tanaka was forced to leave when his father's business failed in 1933, and he worked as a labourer with a construction company. A year later he left home for Tokyo. While studying at night he worked as a clerk and later as a reporter for a small business magazine. By the time he was 18 he had established his own modest construction company.

In 1939 he was drafted into the Army and was posted to Manchuria with a cavalry unit. After a serious illness he was transferred back to Japan and discharged in 1941. He returned to build up his construction firm and in 1942 he married Hanako Sakamoto, the daughter of a boarding-house keeper. His firm expanded rapidly during the war and in 1945 emerged as one of the leading construction companies in Japan.

Tanaka entered politics in 1946 with an unsuccessful attempt to run for the National Diet as a candidate for the now defunct Progressive Party. In 1947 he entered the Diet as a representative of the Liberal Party led by Shigeru Yoshida. In the following year he was appointed Vice-Minister for Justice at the age of 30. In 1957 he joined the Cabinet as Minister for Postal Services under the former Prime Minister, Nobusuke Kishi, and within five years he was appointed as Minister for Finance, a key post, under the former Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda. After Eisaku Sato replaced the ailing Ikeda as Prime Minister in November 1964, Tanaka stayed on at first in the finance portfolio, but in June 1965 he became Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party, a post which he was to hold for several terms in the second half of the 1960s. Combined with his already extensive ministerial experience, it was to prove an ideal base for the consolidation of his power within the party. Having also served in the early 1960s as chairman of the party's policy affairs research council, Tanaka

became known as a party manager of extraordinary energy and ability.

In July 1971 he became Minister for International Trade and Industry. Shortly thereafter it became clear that the long Sato prime ministership was nearing its close. Who becomes prime minister in Japan is largely determined by bargaining between personal factions within the ruling party, and the main expected to succeed Sato was Takeo Fukuda, a powerful faction leader with an impeccable elite background. Tanaka, however, stood against him, and during a hectic round of back-stage bargaining he secured the support of the faction led by Masayoshi Ohira, appointed subsequently as the Foreign Minister. Thus in July 1972, much to the surprise of the country, a relatively young politician and former labourer emerged as Japan's new Prime Minister.

When he took office, Tanaka was extremely popular throughout the country. A gregarious and colourful man, he stood out by comparison with his cautious predecessors as an impetuous and somewhat brash leader. His outstanding capacity to remember the smallest fact or figure, coupled with a restless drive to get things done quickly, soon earned him the nickname "computerised bulldozer". Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, Tanaka flew to Peking to establish formal diplomatic ties with China. While there, he apologised to the Prime Minister, Chou En-lai, for Japan's pre-war role in China. In mending fences with Peking, an historic landmark in Japan's post-war history, he also largely defused what had been a most divisive and difficult issue within Japanese politics.

Assuming office in a year when the Japanese economy was still growing at breakneck speed, Tanaka soon made it apparent that he believed exceptionally high growth rates should and could continue. He was also heavily committed to a scheme, given the grandiose title of "remodelling the Japanese archipelago", for redistributing industry around the country with the

primary aim of relieving congestion in the major cities and mopping up unemployment in the rural areas. Publicity given to this plan fuelled a land price boom which clearly served the interests of large land speculators. This was but one indication that, by the time Tanaka's business-oriented Cabinet had been in office a year, it was incapable of controlling inflation. By the middle of 1973 the Prime Minister's popularity had rapidly declined.

When the first oil crisis broke late in 1973, the initial consequences for an already inflation-ridden economy were severe. Tanaka's prestige suffered another blow when his Cabinet appeared to do little to curb industry's use of the oil crisis to raise prices of essential commodities. In January 1974 he was in further political trouble when anti-Japanese riots broke out in Indonesia and elsewhere while he was on an official Southeast Asian tour.

In October 1974 the journal *Bungei Shunju* published a long article describing alleged irregularities in his financial dealings. It was initially ignored by the Japanese press, and only reported after foreign journalists had given the article publicity. Shortly afterwards, Tanaka resigned from the prime ministership, though he maintained that he was resigning for reasons other than the corruption charges.

The "dirty money" label was to dog him for the rest of his life. On February 4, 1976, evidence was given to the Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, implicating Tanaka and other Japanese politicians in the acceptance of huge bribes from the Lockheed Corporation in its successful bid to sell TriStar aircrafts to All Nippon Airways.

On July 27, 1976, the whole nation was shocked to learn that Tanaka had been arrested (though soon released) and charged with complicity in the affair. An interesting aspect of the Lockheed story was that Tanaka's successor as Prime Minister, Takeo Miki, was unwilling to allow any kind of cover-up. The subsequent trial became a cause célèbre and when a verdict of guilty was returned in October 1983, it seemed like the end of an era.

Many outside observers were amazed that Tanaka was able to remain politically active and influential despite the trial, but his leadership of the largest faction in the Liberal Democratic Party and his extensive network of connections throughout the political and business worlds ensured his continuing influence. He was instrumental in securing the party presidency, and thus the prime ministership, for Masayoshi Ohira (1978-80), Zenko Suzuki (1980-82) and Yasuhiro Nakasone (1982-87). None of these was a member of his own faction, a fact which caused increasing disquiet and incipient revolt within his own hitherto tightly controlled group.

Tanaka was a man of personal warmth who inspired intense loyalty and maximum efficiency from factional followers, local supporters and civil servants alike. He was a skilled machine politician, with an uncanny understanding of the dynamics of Japanese politics. He also possessed an untiring drive for power and influence, though the means of obtaining it interested him less than the more fastidious considered proper.

He is survived by his wife Hana and a daughter Makiko who is also a member of the Diet. His first child, a son, died in 1947. In accordance with Japanese custom, he adopted his daughter's husband as his heir.

RATU SIR PENAIA GANILAU

Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, GCMG, KCVO, KBE, DSO, President of Fiji, died from leukaemia at the Walter Reed Medical Centre, Washington, on December 15 aged 75. He was born at Somosomo, Tavuni, Fiji, in 1918.

PENAIA GANILAU, who was Governor-General of Fiji from 1983 to 1987, tried courageously to resist two political coups that resulted in the ousting of the Queen as head of state and a declaration of a republican government on the island in 1987. The Queen reluctantly accepted his delayed resignation as Governor-General and Ganilau—in an attempt to reintroduce stability to Fiji—equally reluctantly undertook the presidency.

The coups were staged by the Fijian Army led by Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, an indigenous Fijian, after the Indian-led Labour Party coalition headed by Dr Timoci Bavadra, gained power for the first time in the April 1987 election. The Indian community, which had been settled in Fiji at the turn of the century to work on its sugar plantations, made up half the 750,000 population.

Penaia Ganilau was an unassuming man but a brave one who had great respect for the island's constitution. As Governor-General he refused to recognise Colonel Rabuka's administration and declared a state of emergency. In an attempt to defuse the situation he appointed a 19-member advisory council comprising Colonel Rabuka and seven of his supporters, together with members of the traditional council of chiefs and civil servants. Dr Bavadra and his party, the election winners, declined to participate on the ground that the advisory council was unconstitutional. With the situation unresolved and racial violence increasing, Colonel Rabuka staged a second coup on September 25. Ganilau again refused to recognise the revolutionary regime but on October 1, Colonel Rabuka formally revoked the constitution and deposed the Queen as head of state. Fifteen days later, Ganilau who had re-

fused to accept the presidency, resigned as Governor-General.

Fiji was deemed to have left the Commonwealth and the coup leaders were heavily condemned by the Commonwealth members. On December 6, in spite of his previous resistance to the coup, Ganilau reluctantly accepted the presidency in what was seen as an effort to help restore stability to the island.

The son of an hereditary chief, Ganilau went to the Provincial School on Tavuni Island and the Queen Victoria School, before becoming a clerk in the Secretariat in Suva in 1937.

In 1942 he became a lieutenant in the Fiji Infantry Regiment fighting the Japanese in the Solomons. After the war he was selected for the colonial administrative service course at Oxford and became a District Officer in 1948.

In the Malayan emergency he volunteered to fight against terrorists from 1953 to 1956 when he was awarded the DSO for command of a Fiji Battalion and retired as lieutenant-colonel. He was appointed Roko Tui Cakaudrove, a traditional position, in 1956 and two years later made a member of Fiji's legislative

council. He was appointed OBE in 1960. He became Minister for Fijian Affairs in 1965 and was appointed CMG in 1968.

On independence from Britain in 1970—for which he arranged the celebrations—Ganilau was appointed CVO. From 1973 to his elevation as only the second Fijian to be Governor-General in 1983, he was Deputy Prime Minister and was created KBE in 1974. As Colonel of the Fiji Infantry Regiment, he was created KCVO in 1982 and GCMG the following year.

He was a forward on the 1939 Fiji Rugby Tour of New Zealand and was manager of another tour of that country in 1957 and of the tour of Great Britain in 1970.

Ganilau was widely known for his large, genial presence, convivial personality and uncompromising loyalty to the British connection.

His first wife, Adi Laisa Yavusa, died suddenly; they had five sons (one of them was a representative Fiji cricketer in the team that toured England in 1982) and two daughters. His second wife, Asi Asitina Davila, died in 1984. His third wife, Veniana Bale, whom he married in 1985, survives him.



JOHN YALLOP

John Yallop, OBE, forensic scientist, died on December 7 aged 74. He was born on December 15, 1918.

JOHN YALLOP was the principal scientific witness for the defence at the trial of the Maguire Seven in 1976, which led to seven members of the Maguire family being convicted of running an IRA bomb factory in Kilburn. A man who had once served with a Ministry of Defence unit—the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment—Yallop had, during his time there, helped to develop a thin-layer chromatography test for detecting nitroglycerine.

The case for the prosecution rested entirely on the results of this test, which, it was claimed, showed that the seven defendants had all recently handled nitroglycerine. But the amount of nitroglycerine detected had been so small that it was destroyed during the test, meaning that the results could never be verified. The six weeks of the trial were largely taken up by arguments over the reliability of the test.

John Yallop, for the defence, was at pains to point out that his test had no necessary probative value and that, while it was useful to eliminate suspects, it should not be used to convict them. Other matters worried him: the absence of any trace of explosives from the Maguire's house; the fact that only one of the seven was supposed to have been wearing rubber gloves, even

though nitroglycerine contamination causes severe headaches; an inconsistent result on the swabs taken from Paddy Maguire's hands; and the lack of confirmatory tests.

In turn, Sir Michael Havers, who led the prosecution, launched a stinging attack on Yallop, accusing him of dishonesty, lack of frankness and selecting his evidence to suit his case. Against a background of careful police briefing of the tabloid press, the cross-examination had a devastating effect on Yallop and the jury. It turned the trial to the extent that, when Yallop uncovered and tried to introduce crucial documentary evidence proving the fallibility of the test, his lawyers made a feeble compromise with the prosecution, and allowed the judge to deal with the matter in his summing-up rather than put Yallop back in the witness box. The jury convicted all seven defendants, who were jailed for between five and 14 years. One died in prison still protesting his innocence.

It emerged during Sir John May's enquiry into the Maguire affair in 1990 that Yallop's original scepticism was more than justified. New experiments had proved that traces of nitroglycerine could have been innocently picked up from contaminated household items. The case went to the Court of Appeal in 1991, where the convictions were quashed as "unsafe and unsatisfactory", amid heated accusations of a judicial cover-up.

Howard John Yallop was educated at Allhallows School, then in Honiton, and University College, Oxford, where he read chemistry. He was encouraged to complete his degree on the outbreak of war, though a bureaucratic mix-up led to his spending part of his final year in the Army. On graduating, he was sent to the Armament Research Establishment. After the war he joined the Ministry of Defence, and worked on developing the British atomic bomb.

In 1957 Yallop moved to the Home Office and became a forensic scientist specialising in the criminal use of explosives. He was kept busy with safe-blowing for many years but by 1970 his main problem had become bombs. He was involved in several famous cases, including the bombings of the anarchist Angry Brigade and the explosion in 1968 at Ronan Point, the Canning Town tower block.

In 1973 he retired to Devon and set up an independent consultancy. Most of his work involved insurance companies but he also advised the defence of criminal trials such as the Guildford Four, the Maguire Seven and Judith Ward. He was appointed OBE in 1974.

Retiring fully in 1983, he devoted more time to his role as honorary curator of the Allhallows Museum in Honiton, and went back to university—Exeter this time—emerging with a doctorate. He also published half-a-dozen books, ranging from *Protection Against Terrorism* (1980) to *The History of the Honiton Lace Industry* (1987). He leaves his wife Mary, a son and a daughter.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, LONG-HAUL TRAVEL SPECIALISTS, RENTALS, TICKETS FOR SALE, SERVICES, MAKING YOUR WILL?, THE AMERICAN INDIAN DIFFICULTY, ON THIS DAY December 17 1890

MARGARET LANDON, THE AMERICAN INDIAN DIFFICULTY, ON THIS DAY December 17 1890, the great Indian rising of 1876, when for a long time he led the best troops of the United States at bay. He was not so much a fighting man as a statesman, and although he was nominally in command of the Indians when General Custer, with the finest regiment of the United States, was annihilated, it was really his fighting chief, Crazy Horses, to whom the credit of this Indian victory is due. It was the same chief, Crazy Horses, who fought General Crook on the Big Horn, and held his ground the whole long day, despite Crook's repeated attempts to dislodge him. Crazy Horses was bayoneted by mistake after he had surrendered. Sitting Bull, after the great war, escaped to Canada, where he lived for some time; but, being pardoned, he returned to his own hunting grounds. Despite all the efforts of the United States authorities, Sitting Bull would never look upon the white men as other than his natural enemies. He declared that the white men were always secretly goading them into violence in order to have a pretext for shooting them down and seizing their lands. For some time he travelled in America with Colonel Cody in his Wild West Show, but, though he took a very intelligent interest in many things he saw, he remained to the last a typical Indian of the plains, untamed and untamable.

CBI sees promising inflation outlook

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

INFLATION pressures remain weak in the economy, with one in five manufacturers expecting to cut prices in the new year, the latest monthly industrial trends survey from the CBI says today.

The findings will give comfort to ministers following yesterday's fall in unemployment and stable inflation figures earlier in the week.

They suggest that the maintenance of inflation at its current level, or even a lower one, is likely in the first part of 1994. But what the CBI describes today as a "promising" outlook for inflation on the basis of its latest figures is coupled with a more mixed picture of the economy overall.

While manufacturers' export and order books have improved, expectations of improved output have slipped.

The CBI's December survey, taken in the first two weeks of the month among almost 1,400 companies accounting for about half the UK's manufacturing employment and exports, shows that 20 per cent of manufacturers expect to cut their prices over the next four months.

With 19 per cent still expecting to increase prices, and 59 per cent seeing no change, this net balance — those reporting a rise against those registering a fall — of -1 per cent is an improvement on November's figure of a balance of 5 per cent of companies expecting to see their prices rise.

The survey says the slide in orders is continuing, with the balance of those seeing orders as below normal improving from 23 per cent to 19 per cent now. The figure is the least poor total since August.

Export orders are reflecting a similar pattern. It says. The balance of 14 per cent of companies regarding export orders as below normal is better than the figure of 24 per cent in November.

It says the improvement in domestic and export orders is counterbalanced by a fallback in output expectations. While a balance of 9 per cent of companies still expect the volume of their output to improve over the next four months, this is down on November's figure of 12 per cent.

REPORT TO SIB ON PENSION TRANSFERS

Fewer than one in ten received acceptable pension advice

Sarah McConnell
examines the
findings of the
KPMG enquiry into
pensions advice

ALL sectors of the pensions industry are equally guilty of wrongly persuading people to transfer into a personal pensions funds built up in final salary schemes, yesterday's report into pension transfers shows. KPMG's investigation of 735 customer files shows that both independent advisers and insurance company agents overwhelmingly failed to get details of clients' existing pension arrangements and explain the risks of leaving a company scheme.

The report, commissioned by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), shows that 95 per cent of client files of agents directly employed by life offices or contracted only to sell one company's products were "unsatisfactory", "suspect" or both. Bank and building society branch staff are included in this figure because they are agents for bank and building society life company arms. Of client files of independent intermediaries regulated by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) or the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), 89 per cent were unsatisfactory, suspect or both. Overall, only 66 of the 735 files inspected by KPMG showed an acceptable level of advice. Of the rest, 396 were unsatisfactory, 59 were suspect and 214 were both.

The KPMG investigators defined a "pass" file as one "which demonstrates substantial compliance with the main conduct of business requirements". An "unsatisfactory" file "lacks evidence of sufficient 'know your customer' information, or of compliance with other 'conduct of business' requirements". A "suspect" file contains "material or



Andrew Large, left, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, Sir Norman Fowler, top right, who introduced personal pensions in 1988, and John Watts MP



evidence of actions that is at first sight either suspicious or misleading such as evidence of an apparently perverse recommendation, positive evidence of mis-selling or of playing on emotive issues, categorisation of the client as execution only or a comparison that does not match the profile of the coding scheme benefits without evidence of explanation".

More than three quarters of brokers and agents had not obtained sufficient details of the occupational scheme from which they were advising

customers to transfer. In 35 per cent of cases, advisers had not even asked when their client wanted to retire. In 44 per cent of cases, it was not clear from the file whether customers had any dependent children, or in 77 per cent of cases whether the occupational pension provided children's pensions. Of the files examined by KPMG, 75 per cent did not reveal whether the occupational scheme offered discretionary increases in pensions already being paid or deferred pensions for people who have

not yet reached retirement. The report concedes: "Discretionary increases could be unlikely in many instances, for example where scheme benefits are already indexed-linked, and this could have led the adviser to ignore this point. However, it is likely that in some instances this omission will mean that a history of discretionary pension increases has been overlooked." The vast majority of people being persuaded to transfer had not had the alternatives explained to them. In 77 per

cent of cases, there was insufficient information on file to indicate that agents had analysed their recommendation.

Most of the files contained information routinely sent by trustees of occupational pension schemes to people intending to transfer benefits but even some of this is missing in about 15 per cent of cases.

In 444 cases, or 61 per cent, advisers had not asked their clients how much risk they were prepared to take. Personal pensions carry an investment risk, unlike final salary pension schemes. Independent advisers regulated by Fimbra were the worst offenders — 67 per cent had not recorded the client's attitude to risk on the file.

Overall, the investigators found that in 73 per cent of cases there was not enough information recorded on the file to tell whether the recommendation was suitable. The recommendation was judged suitable in only 13 per cent of cases and definitely not suitable in 14 per cent of cases.

Regulators have been trying to clamp down for some years on sales tactics which involve persuading people to transfer funds from company schemes to personal pensions. Since personal pensions were introduced by Sir Norman Fowler, the then social security secretary, in 1988, life insurance companies have indulged in a sales bonanza. More than 6 million personal pensions have been sold.

Pensions salespeople were warned in July last year by Laidlaw and Fimbra in separate guidance notes that many of them were not carrying out adequate fact-finds and were mis-selling. The KPMG report found that after regulators had issued guidance, the number of files deemed "pass" files rose from 5 per cent to 20 per cent.

Last night, John Watts MP, said the Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee, of which he is chairman, would investigate regulation of the financial services industry following the report. He said the problem of bad pension advice was "worrying".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bundesbank pegs rates but lowers M3 target

THE Bundesbank left its leading interest rates unchanged yesterday at its last council meeting of the year, but announced a slightly lower target range for its key M3 measure of money supply. The decision not to cut rates was expected and had little impact on European stock markets, which ended firm. The Dax index in Frankfurt closed up 26.75 at 2,137.45.

The Bundesbank announced a new target range for M3 of 4 per cent to 6 per cent, higher than the 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent target for 1993. However, Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, emphasised that the new range was not a more restrictive policy. He said the Bundesbank would continue to assess any scope for rate cuts but caution would take priority. However, he kept open the prospect of more rate cuts. "I expect further progress on (price) stabilisation in 1994," he said. He added that he expected moderate growth in the economy to make the new M3 target easier to hit next year than it was this year. He said economic prospects were brightening but it was too early to declare the recession over.

Bowthorpe seeks £64.4m

BOWTHORPE, the electronics and electrical components group, is raising £64.4 million through a rights issue to strengthen its balance sheet as it continues to acquire specialist businesses. It is issuing one new share at 32p for every eight held, against Wednesday's closing price of 382p. Yesterday, existing shares fell 1p to 371p. Bowthorpe forecasts pre-tax profits of about £50.5 million for the year to December 31, up from £42.7 million in 1992. Shareholders are promised a final dividend of 5.03p a share, up from 4.57p, lifting the total payout to 6.91p. *Tempus, page 29*

Medeva board move

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals group, announced the appointment of Dr William Bogie as chief executive with effect from January 1, 1994, in a move designed to split the roles of chairman and chief executive. Bernard Taylor, Medeva's chairman and chief executive, said he was "delighted" by the appointment. Dr Bogie, 49, joined the group in April as director responsible for European operations. Ian Gowrie-Smith, Medeva's founder, will give up his title of managing director, but will remain as deputy chairman. His role within the group is unaffected.

Nu-Swift to go private

JACQUES Murray, the chairman of Nu-Swift, the fire protection, office cleaning and property group, confirmed yesterday that he was taking the company private in a £43.9 million deal. He owns 66 per cent of the group through European Fire Protection, and is offering to buy the remaining stake he does not already own. He is offering shareholders 395p in cash, against Wednesday's closing price of 350p, valuing the whole of the company at £147.2 million. ADT, a leading shareholder with a 22.8 per cent stake, said it agreed with the terms of the deal.

Electra leaps ahead

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in unquoted investments, reported a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £19 million for the year to September 30. The final dividend advanced to 3.55p (3.4p), taking the total to 7p. Net assets per share rose 22.8 per cent to 341.3p. Electra has set out its valuation principles in its annual report. Historically, shares of the trust, which specialises in supplying venture capital, have traded at a discount to net assets because the City has been unable to assess its valuation process. About 70 per cent of its portfolio is in unlisted stocks.

Reed Elsevier expands

REED Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, has continued the expansion of its European professional publishing arm with the acquisition of a 40 per cent stake in Giuffrè Editore, Italy's leading legal publisher. Giuffrè and Mori, its sister company, will complement Reed's existing legal publishing business. The two companies had sales of £102 million (£43.4 million) in 1992 and publish a range of 5,000 titles and 60 journals. They have a fast-growing electronic publishing business that accounts for 12 per cent of company sales.

Hoskyns joins Emap

SIR John Hoskyns, left, will be the next chairman of Emap, the media group. He joined the company's board as a non-executive director yesterday and will succeed Graham Ross Russell as chairman from next April, the start of the company's financial year. Sir John, who founded the company that subsequently became Hoskyns Group, is now executive chairman of The Burton Group and a non-executive director of Clerical, Medical & General Life Assurance Society.

Harrisons trading alert

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the food-to-building-materials group, gave warning yesterday of trading difficulties in two of its divisions, causing the shares to fall 5p to 199p. The disclosure about the food and agriculture division, and the plantations business, is expected to cause analysts to downgrade current-year profit forecasts. These have averaged about £105 million. Harrisons said that a "drastic fall" in pig prices in the second half had hit food and agriculture profits, and that it was looking at ways of reducing exposure to pig price volatility. *Tempus, page 29*

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ALBION (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.09m
EPS: 20.2p (15.5p)
Div: 2.4p, mkg 4p

BALL (A.H.) (Int)
Pre-tax: £40,000 loss
EPS: 0.20p loss
Div: 1p (2.2p)

BARCOM (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.08m
EPS: 10.9p (7.4p)
Div: 1.75p, mkg 3p

BRADSTOCK GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £7.6m (£7.43m)
EPS: 8.9p (8.5p)
Div: 3.95p, mkg 5.5p

CHILTERN RADIO (Fin)
Pre-tax: £246,000 loss
EPS: 3.4p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

MS INTL (Int)
Pre-tax: £462,000
EPS: 1.1p (0.6p)
Div: 1p (1p)

Profit in previous year was £773,937 and the total dividend was 3p. Turnover rose to £21.6 million, from £15.6 million

Interim profit last time was £407,000, with earnings of 3.48p a share. The turnover is £4.14 million, up from £2.89 million

Profit in previous year was £562,000 and the total dividend was 1.25p. Turnover rose to £31.79 million, from £11.5 million

Dividend in previous year was 5.1p. Company is buying 88 per cent of Insurex Expo-Sure for up to £2.68 million

Loss in previous year was £392,000 before tax and 4.6p a share. National air-time revenues up, but regional revenue patchy

Previous interim profit was £250,000. Despite significant acquisitions, gearing is below 20 per cent

PLYSU (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.4m (£5.8m)
EPS: 4.8p (8.4p)
Div: 2p (2p)

INTERCARE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.3m (£3.62m)
EPS: 10.5p (9.5p)
Div: 2.8p, mkg 3.5p

STEWART & WIGHT (Int)
Pre-tax: £170,084
EPS: 145.29p (155.75p)
Div: Nil (nil)

SUTCLIFFE, SPEAKMAN
Pre-tax: £361,000
EPS: 0.38p (2.06p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

WESTPORT (Int)
Pre-tax: £220,000 loss
EPS: 0.18p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

VICTORIA CARPET (Int)
Pre-tax: £466,000
EPS: 4.17p (2.03p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Exceptional costs of securing new dairy contracts had short-term adverse effect on profits. UK recession still evident

Total dividend in previous year 2.8p. Turnover is £39 million, from £29.1 million. Roles of chairman and chief executive to be split

Previous interim profit was £182,013. Fall attributed to higher interest charges and lower non-rental income

Interim results. Previous loss was £550,000. Turnover fell to £10.3 million (£12.99 million), but there was a return to operating profit

Profit last time was £111,000 with earnings of 0.05p. Operating profit from continuing business fell to £14,000 (£164,000)

Previous interim profit was £227,000. Turnover rose to £17.09 million from £12.37 million. Margins still under pressure.

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مكتبة الأصل

□ Why political mistrust is the Old Lady's best friend □ Time to scrap the pensions hard sell □ Drama on the good ship

Banking on the favourite

DIANE Abbott, the down to earth left wing MP, put it succinctly. The fashionable clamour for an independent central bank, she argued, represents "a collective failure of nerve" among the British political classes. "The real attraction of an independent central bank is that it would permit the imposition of high interest rates without elected politicians having to take any responsibility."

Quite so. That led her to a lone vote against her eight colleagues, whose Treasury select committee report urges that authority for deciding interest rates be transferred to the Bank of England. It is actually the main argument for doing just that.

If there is a consensus that permanent price stability is important, but politicians, along with the public and the markets, doubt their unwavering commitment to it, then it is best to saddle responsibility on to politically blinkered officials whose noses are pointed in the right direction. Not an inspiring thought, but a practical one.

The report's importance lies in its timing at the moment of maximum opportunity for change. If the Bank's own forecasts are correct, inflation should be settling at under 2 per cent when legislation became effective. That is the best time to move. Bank officials could not be

asked to achieve price stability, with all the pain that brings. But they could be charged to keep inflation low once stability has been achieved. The committee's ideas might also be translated into action. Given that they enjoy cross-party support and that Nicholas Budgen, one of the committee's top enthusiasts, hit the jackpot in the ballot for private members' Bills, the Government might be persuaded to give him a fair wind.

The proposals are reasonably balanced. The "I" word is generally avoided. Rather, reform would clarify accountability. As the report explains: "Government would be responsible to Parliament for setting the targets, and the Bank would have to account to Parliament on its progress in achieving the targets and the statutory objective of price stability."

A six month Treasury override would be built in and the targets would have to allow for "spare capacity in the economy and the overall stance of fiscal policy".

Merely saddling the Bank does nothing to resolve the particular dilemmas of monetary policy in Britain, however, since interest rates might be just as volatile. One is our undue reliance on short-term rates, which heavily affect millions via the mortgage system and via small business, which depends unhealthily on overdraft finance. The second is sensitivity of the exchange rate to short-term interest rates. Would the Bank effectively control an unstated exchange rate policy? If Britain does not join a unified European currency — making the argument largely irrelevant — others might well do so within a decade. That would entwine exchange and interest rates even more.

examined showed "substantial" compliance with the main conduct of business rules is damning enough. Even worse is that in three out of four cases the sellers had not even bothered to find out the details of their prospect's existing final salary pension scheme before persuading them to switch to a personal pension. For many, indeed, even finding out crucial details about the client, such as when they wanted to retire or whether they had any dependent children, was too much effort.

A failure of the system

HERE we are again. Rarely has the mismatch between the onerous theoretical responsibilities placed on life insurance salesmen and the sober reality of how they operate been more damningly demonstrated than in KPMG's report on a sample of pension transfers. That less than one in ten of the client files



examined showed "substantial" compliance with the main conduct of business rules is damning enough. Even worse is that in three out of four cases the sellers had not even bothered to find out the details of their prospect's existing final salary pension scheme before persuading them to switch to a personal pension. For many, indeed, even finding out crucial details about the client, such as when they wanted to retire or whether they had any dependent children, was too much effort.

The message from this is clear. We are not dealing with the "few rotten apples" so often blamed for lapses in the controls of pension providers, life assurance companies and investment man-

agers. This is systematic failure, not failure of individuals. The providers are to blame, rather than salesmen. They are clearly being asked to do, and assumed to be doing, what they cannot do, have not been trained to do or cannot afford to do within the structure of commissions, payments and incentives they have to live with. If the system is failing, there is no point in simply taking measures to tighten it up. The system itself needs to be reformed.

Pension providers, essentially the life assurance industry, has simply got its marketing and selling system wrong. They will need to rethink it completely if they are going to claim to provide responsibly for whole-life savings on a mass scale. The responsible culture they think they operate is now the culture of the few rather than the industry as a whole. High pressure selling has become the norm and has spread uncontrollably from simple products to pensions. Marketing has to be rebuilt round expert salaried staff, whose time is costed properly and not contracted out via a commission-

dominated incentive system. Change will probably only come, however, once the public learns a lesson too. The Financial Services Act was not intended to protect fools but to prevent reasonable people being made fools of. To arrange something as important as a pension, people should be prepared to pay for advice, just as they would pay a lawyer or accountant when big money is at stake. As with those professionals, it will probably not come cheap.

Maelstrom in a teacup

IT IS NO secret that tea ladies are kept fully employed on the upper floors of Lorrho's Cheap-side HQ: reading what remains in the teacups has, however, always proved a problematic art. A quick glance into the teacup would suggest that Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock are still at war, with the latter carving notches on a Luger twisted with the confidence of an 18.8 per cent shareholder who bought in at an average price of

100p, against Lorrho's current quote of 131.5p.

Then again, quick glances can be deceptive. Rowland and Bock are most certainly not the "indivisibles" — as once billed — but a relationship, of sorts, would appear to have survived: even if the rowing is somewhat erratic. Rowland's recent observation that Bock "hasn't got a clue" is, on a clear day, perceived as no more than a mis-timed stroke.

Similarly, confirmation that Bock is pressing for a change in Lorrho's articles, not least by way of the introduction of a retirement age of 65, is nothing more than a resounding splash.

Fact: Bock wants Lorrho's chairman Rene Ledezio and co-director Sir Peter Youens (both in their 70s) to jump ship, alongside deputy chairman Robert Dunlop and Paul Spicer (both in their mid 60s). Fact: Negotiations are under way regarding exit terms. Fact: Rowland is well aware that any change in the articles requires a 75 per cent majority vote and the AGM is not due until March. He has also insisted that any resignation — which currently requires a "unanimous" board vote — will only be acceptable at the "best" of a director. Fact: Rowland may eventually choose to disembark but he has no intention of jumping. It always was a unique ship.

Provisions help bring Archer loss

Provisions of £300,000 towards the Lloyd's settlement offer helped AJ Archer, the Lloyd's agency, turn a £1.16 million profit into a £820,000 loss for year to September 30. The agency had already set aside £250,000.

Redundancy costs of £100,000 and one-off restructuring fees contributed to the loss, the first in the company's seven-year history.

Fee income fell sharply, although capacity, spread over 15 syndicates, was lifted by more than 40 per cent to £550 million. The final dividend is cut from 2.2p to 0.5p, making 1p (4.4p).

Matthews buys

Bernard Matthews, the poultry processor, has agreed to acquire Turners Turkeys from Unigate for approximately £18 million. In the year to March 31 the business earned operating profits of £2.8 million on turnover of £59.6 million. Net cost of the deal to Matthews will be £12.4 million because of part sale of Turner assets already agreed.

SCA paper deal

SCA, the leading Swedish forest products group, in a joint venture with Mondi, the pulp and paper arm of Minoro group, is to invest £250 million in a new paper machine to "greatly expand" SCA's newsprint production at Aylesford, Kent. Annual capacity will go up by 280,000 tons to 390,000 tons. Mondi will pay £33 million for its half of the venture. The Government is providing a grant of £20 million.

LMS dips

London Merchant Securities, the property group, suffered a fall in net rental income for the half year to September 30 from £15 million to £14.8 million due to the carrying cost of unlet developments. Profits fell from £10.9 million to £10.1 million. LMS is maintaining the interim at 0.8p.

ICD in talks

International Communication and Data, the marketing services group whose board successfully fought off an attempt by PSB Group, a private direct marketing company, to oust most of them, is now in bid talks with PSB. ICD said talks have started which may or may not lead to PSB Group or one of its associates making a general offer.

M&G surprises City with leap in profits and final dividend

By SARAH BAGNALL

M&G, Britain's largest unit and investment trust group, caught the City by surprise yesterday with a 36 per cent rise in the final dividend and a 29 per cent boost in pre-tax profits.

Pre-tax profits advanced from £39.4 million to £50.9 million, enabling the company to increase the final dividend from 11p to 15p, making a total of 25p for the year to September 30. The shares raced ahead 33p, to reach a high of 998p, before falling back slightly to 995p.

Paddy Linaker, M&G's managing director, said the results "were up to our best expectations. The belief last year that the combination of low inflation, lower interest rates and the substantial de-

■ Buoyant stock markets have set M&G on course for another year of strong growth, underpinning a 36 per cent increase in the dividend for 1993

valuation of sterling would provide a powerful stimulus to the UK stock market has been borne out."

Buoyant stock markets coupled with shrewd investment helped funds under management jump 45 per cent to £12.5 billion, outstripping the 24 per cent rise in the stock market over the year.

The group's main businesses contributed to the growth, with the biggest improvement coming from unit trusts. The total value of M&G's unit trusts leapt from £4.1 million to £6.3 million, almost entirely

due to internal growth rather than new sales. Sales of unit trusts soared from £295 million in 1992 to £541 million, rising redemptions contained net sales at £92 million, compared with net redemptions of £109 million last time.

Over the year, the value of investment trusts rose from £456 million to £662 million, again reflecting performance rather than sales, which shumped from £376 million to £9 million. Three of M&G's flagship funds, Dividend, Recovery and Second General, produced sparkling returns of

50 per cent, 52 per cent and 56 per cent respectively over the year.

Profits from the management of unit and investment trusts rose 41 per cent to £29.8 million, while profits from institutional investment clients rose 10.5 per cent to £2.1 million. A further £12.7 million of profits came from the insurance businesses, compared with £10.2 million.

Mr Linaker said: "The immediate outlook for our business remains good. A consistent philosophy, financial strength, continuity of management and independence enable us to face the challenges both at home and internationally with optimism."

Analysts are forecasting further increases in profits to £60 million this year, reflecting the management's upbeat view of

the future. M&G argues that it is well placed to take advantage of the increasing globalisation of investment trends. "The group has a strong capital base and shareholders' capital and reserves have risen from £103.7 million to £147.6 million, an increase of 42 per cent," Mr Linaker said.

Over the year, the net asset value per share rose 43 per cent to 196.5p and earnings per share advanced 31 per cent to 47.8p. Earnings per share were helped by the group's decision to buy back 600,000 of its own shares for cancellation. The move cost £4.7 million and the group said it will "consider" buying back more shares when it will increase earnings per share.

Tempos, page 29

Yorkshire keeps up dividend bonanza

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE dividend bonanza for investors in utilities continued yesterday as Yorkshire Electricity Group gave shareholders a 15 per cent increase in interim payout after a 22 per cent rise in first-half profits. The payout is 6.9p (6p) on 21.8p earnings (14.8p).

Improved efficiency and rising demand helped the regional electricity distributor to lift pre-tax profit to £74 million in the half year to September 30, from £42.5 million. However, £22 million of the upturn relates to retraining of payments to generators under new contracts.

Turnover dipped to £587.2 million (£590.7 million), reflecting average tariff reductions of about 3.5 per cent in the supply business and transfer of three months' relating to an associate company.

Overall units distributed rose 1.6 per cent and, after

adjusting for weather effects, growth of 0.6 per cent indicates upturn in the region's economy. Demand from domestic customers grew 4 per cent, reflecting cold weather and economic upturn. The commercial side was also up 4 per cent. Demand from industry fell about 1 per cent, mainly reflecting pit closures, with demand from coal-mining said to be down by a fifth.

Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, said that the tariff reduction represents an annual price cut of about £16 per average customer, although imposition of VAT will wipe this out. Yorkshire has some of Britain's lowest prices, he said, with customers estimated to have had a 7 per cent cut in real prices terms since privatisation.

Yorkshire said that it is on target for a 10 per cent staff cut this financial year.



Sam Newington sees new hope on the horizon

Fairline sails out of the red

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

FAIRLINE Boats returned to profit in the year to September 30 as export markets recovered following sterling's effective devaluation on leaving the ERM last year. A pre-tax £558,000 profit replaces a loss in the previous 12 months of £507,000, on sales up 22 per cent to £33.7 million.

Fairline said it also benefited from the good reception for its new boats, such as the Phantom 37. The total dividend is held at 10.5p, but this time paid from profits rather than reserves, with a 6.925p final.

Sam Newington, chairman, said: "Overall, I think we can probably look forward to a better year in 1993/1994 and I hope we can look forward to improved margins when our new boats are in full and efficient production."

Mr Newington added that the company could not expect to remain immune from the recession in mainland Europe as 90 per cent of all exports — which in themselves comprise 90 per cent of output — went across the Channel. He said while some impact had already been experienced in Spain, France, Italy and Scandinavia, German sales were holding up well, and the Far East was significantly better.

Owners Abroad managers lose jobs

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

A TOTAL of 260 managers are to lose their jobs at Owners Abroad, the holiday operator that this year lough off an unwelcome £290 million takeover bid from its rival, Airtours.

The move, which is the latest twist in a stormy year for the company, follows a review of the business after the recent appointment of Francis Baron as chief executive. The company said that the restructuring was to simplify the corporate structure by removing "a number of layers of management".

The group said that it hoped the move would make Owners Abroad more price-competitive, and more responsive to changes in consumer preferences. Further significant redundancies were not expected, said Owners, where Howard Klein stepped down as chairman and chief executive in July, with a warning

that full-year profits were likely to be half City expectations.

At that time, when Roger Allard, the managing director, also announced his departure, Owners attracted the attention of the Takeover Panel, the City regulatory body on takeovers, because in its bid defence against Airtours, four months earlier, it had said trading was strong. Owners maintained its statements during the takeover bid — with Airtours failing to win control by just 7 per cent of the necessary acceptances — were correct.

However, Owners said after Easter that it had been hit by severe price discounting and changes in destination preferences, away from its strong areas of Greece and Cyprus towards Spain, where it was not so strong.

Owners said that during the recession people were continuing to trade down,

while its holidays were on average £100 more expensive than its rivals. The Takeover Panel cleared the company subsequently of any irregularity in its bid defence.

Yesterday's closing share price — 79p, down 1p on the day — tells the story of a company that may have pulled out of the dive, but of which the City remains cautious. The price is comfortably off the 59p low in 1993, as the new management tries to get to grips with a troubled inheritance, but still well short of its 148p high this year.

Meanwhile, as Owners announced the change in its structural face, Airtours, its rejected suitor, announced that it was changing its shop face. It is renaming its Pickfords Travel, Hogg Robinson and Hourmont Travel shops under the single title "Going Places".

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Painting by numbers can blur employment picture

Philip Bassett finds merit in the claim that City forecasts throw little light on the operation of the UK labour market

When, by yesterday lunchtime, the excitement caused by the 36,100 fall in unemployment had cooled in the City, a gaggle of bankers and brokers analysts slipped into the London headquarters of the Department of Employment.

Over coffee and sandwiches, the City experts with an interest in unemployment met Whitehall economists and statisticians in the latest step in a tentative process begun, away from any public limelight, by the Government: to try to explain the workings of a market — the labour market — which it believes the City traditionally does not understand but which is crucial to Britain's economic recovery.

From banks including NatWest, the TSB, Bank of America and Barings, and from brokers including BZW, Robert Fleming, Nomura and Kleinwort Benson, they came to consider aspects of the labour market — or, as one Whitehall insider put it, so the department could "try to knock some sense into them".

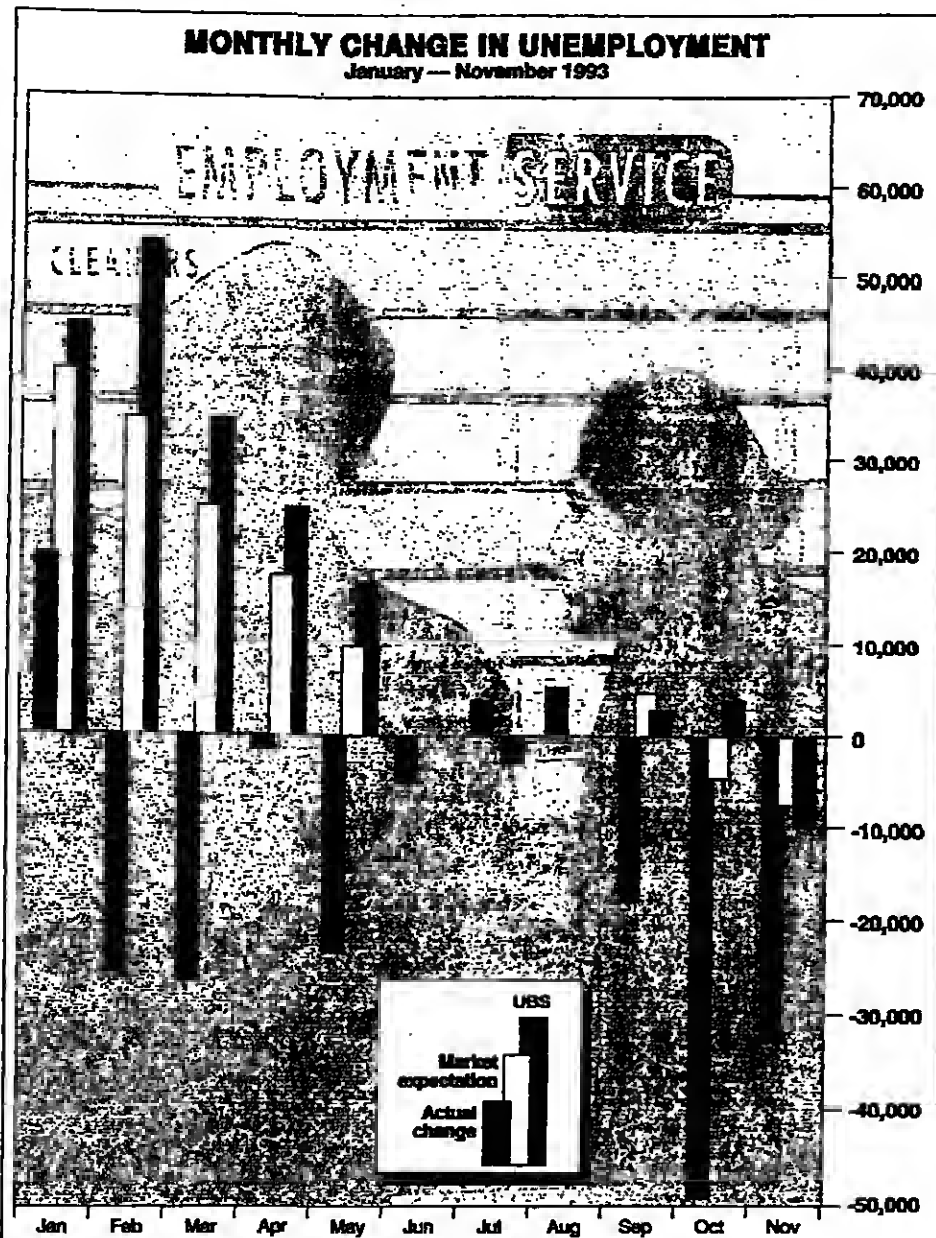
Perhaps they need it. The City yesterday got Britain's unemployment figures wrong again. The fall announced by the Government was more than three times the median "forecast" expected by the City in the latest of a long series of wildly inaccurate predictions.

In private, senior civil servants are at least as seething about most City economists as was Lord Lawson, the former chancellor, when he famously dismissed them as mere "teenage scribbles". They believe their analyses about unemployment to be lightweight or wrong and their forecasts about changes in unemployment to be largely ludicrous.

"They're hopeless," one key adviser said. While a policy official commented: "They need looking at — very hard." Yet, at the same time, Whitehall knows how influential they can be — a realisation that only serves to increase the irritation they cause. Government ministers know that, often, what is thought about an indicator such as unemployment is largely how it is measured against what the City's "expectations" were of it.

Last month, for instance, when unemployment fell by an unexpectedly large 49,000, ministers were needed when the sharp drop was presented — certainly by radio and TV news broadcasts — not in itself but as the City being confounded by the news. "Who cares whether the City is confounded by a drop in unemployment?" one irritated senior official asked. "All that means is that some 22-year-old so-called economist has got his figures wrong — again."

Just how far does the City



get its unemployment forecasts wrong? Broadly speaking, a lot. Publicly, the Government no longer makes forecasts about unemployment. Privately, of course, it does — Treasury officials still make detailed estimates about the likely trend in unemployment, which are a far cry from the "assumptions" about unemployment published a fortnight ago in the Budget. But the Treasury's real estimates are now kept strictly for internal consumption. "We used to see them," one senior Employment Department official said. "Now, even we don't."

Most journalists who concentrate on unemployment also now eschew predictions, after a spate of stories, reports and wire copy which got the figures often spectacularly and merrily wrong. Most independent policy groups, such as the Unemployment Unit, are similarly chary about forecasting each month's figures. Not so the City. Every month, the analysts who are the Employment Department sandwiches yesterday boldly go where no others now go at all.

This is how it works: at the end of each week, a splutter of faxes arrive in news organisations' offices containing "forecasts" from analysts in banks and brokerage houses on the following week's economic figures. Many analysts also include their own calculation of the average, or "median" of other such forecasts.

These are then picked up and widely reported as the City's "expectations". As a key indicator, unemployment is of course a regular. For yesterday's figure, Goldman Sachs, for instance, predicted a fall in seasonally-adjusted unemployment of 20,000. So too did Greenwell Montagu.

The market "median", which was duly and faithfully trotted out in yesterday morning's radio and television broadcasts as the "expectation" of the fall in unemployment, was 10,000 (or 7,500, or something else, depending on which particular broker's sheet was given credence).

Most City forecasts on unemployment are, at best, little more than an arithmetic calculation arrived at by averaging out the changes of the last six months. Tracking the City's estimates back over time illustrates clearly how wide they are of the mark.

any month got the monthly figure right, or even very close. The nearest was the market's estimate in July this year, which was only 4,300 out (the estimate said "flat", the actual change was a 4,300 rise).

In reply, analysts argue that as a proportion of such large figures, as the 2.85 million unemployed, their estimates are broadly right and that statistically a 4,300 rise, for instance, is broadly flat.

Faced with City-derived headlines which they feel play down success, Government ministers do not take so sanguine a view. They and their advisers suggest that the "market" of such forecasts, as made by City economists, not only gets unemployment wrong when the figures are highly volatile — as at a turning point — but that it also got it wrong when unemployment was much more stable, with relatively smooth patterns of rises or falls.

In particular, they accuse the City of completely missing the boat when unemployment started to fall this year, and of the forecasters refusing to believe what the figures were saying — thus fuelling, among other things, Labour's attack on the integrity of both the figures and Government statisticians.

Robert Lind, a UK economist with UBS who analyses unemployment, offers a spirited defence of his own and his colleagues' work. He accepts it is not easy to produce forecasts

of monthly figures — especially those as volatile as unemployment at turning points in the economic cycle — and even goes so far as to describe it as a "rough game". But he says: "All that the market expectation does is to give you a benchmark to judge against the out-turn. The market can then make an assessment against the figure, and work out what it needs to do. But that works its way through the market in a couple of minutes, rather than having any long-term impact."

In part, this clash between City and Whitehall is common not just to the unemployment figures, but to most economic indicators and indeed to much reporting of companies' financial results. Many business leaders feel that in many cases, what matters is not so much how much or little money a company made, but whether it was higher or lower than expectations — in other words, as they see it, whether or not City analysts got their sums right.

Clearly, there is some truth in that, perhaps a great deal. For their part, the analysts believe the meetings between the City and Whitehall on unemployment, of which yesterday's was the third, are useful in giving what many in the City believe are ivory-tower economists and statisticians in Government a clue of what the impact of their work might be in the hard-money world of the Square Mile and beyond.

Inevitably, if unemployment continues on what appears to be a downward trend, ministers' anxieties over it will lessen and the tensions surrounding it — including those between Whitehall and the City — will ease. But despite ministers' monthly bravado, their nervousness about unemployment remains high, as does the City's influence, suggesting that Whitehall will need to stock up with coffee and sandwiches for some time to come.

TEMPUS Fear of heights

EVERY time the stock market looks as though it has run out of steam, it urges itself a little higher. The reasons for the record close on the FT-SE 100 index — 32 points higher than Wednesday's record — look tenuous. Granted that December options are settled today, but that event normally passes without comment, while the flow of economic data this week has been no more optimistic than expected and was tinged with a poor PSBR figure and the Bundesbank's refusal to cut rates.

But the market has no interest in bad news at present, any more than it takes much note of the rising tide of profit warnings. This week alone has seen a full house of corporate disasters, including Trafalgar House and Fisons.

For anyone with even an ounce of doubt about Britain's impending economic miracle the feeling of vertigo must be almost unbearable, with the FT All-Share index standing on a p/e ratio of 24 and a dividend yield of 3.5 per cent and falling. The most ominous sight is all the City's economists scrambling to raise their forecasts for the FT-SE 100 index close in 1994 to 3,600, or more.

The rise in the market relies on two assumptions: that base rates will be cut next year as low as 4 per cent and that corporate earnings will recover sharply. The former may happen but the Bank of England's stance suggests that rate cuts will be desultory. The latter looks far more problematic: the signal from most major companies is that 1994 will be another year of sluggish recovery, with much of the rise in earnings being used to rebuild earnings rather than increase dividends. When the New Year arrives, the market's hangover may be painful.

M&G Group
THANKS to the bull market, M&G can practise what it preaches. Having urged companies to hold and increase dividends during the recession, rising world equity prices have boosted the group's funds under management and its profits so impressively that it can lift its dividend by 25 per cent.

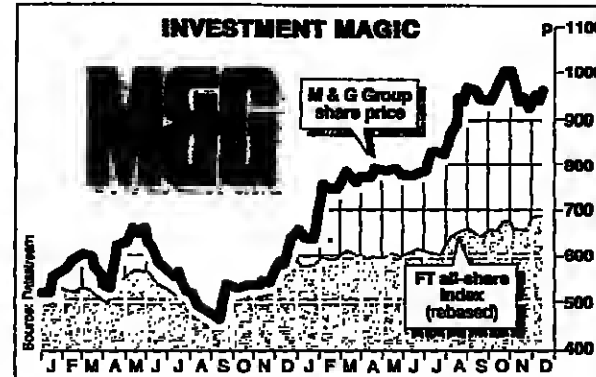
Such an increase looks slightly rash, especially since only £92 million, or less than 2.5 per cent, of the £3.9 billion increase in funds under management came from actual net sales of unit trusts. The 25p dividend leaves cover at less than two times, and M&G may regret committing itself if there is a sharp correction in world stock markets.

M&G, however, breezes confidence about the direction of share prices, as well it

might given the rise in indices since September. Its opinion is worth listening to since 88 per cent of its unit trusts were in the top performance quartile in the past year.

Nor does M&G seem to know what else to do with its cash resources, now above £150 million. Its dislike of acquisitions seems unchanged, and, unless it distributes cash to shareholders, it would look more like an investment trust than a fund manager.

Like the rest of its sector, M&G is a geared play on equity prices. Another good year on the stock market would push the dividend to 30p, putting the shares on a 3.8 per cent yield. But even bulls might prefer a higher quality of earnings.



Bowthorpe
BOWTHORPE is an unlikely City favourite. Its products range from the low-tech, such as cables and heat sinks, to advanced environmental testing equipment, and its tendency towards acquisitive expansion is unfashionable in these days when the catchphrase is "back to basics".

Bowthorpe's proven success, however, puts the shares at 23 times current-year earnings, so it is taking the opportunity to call for more equity. Since the last rights issue, in 1987, Bowthorpe has achieved a neat turnaround. In the late eighties, defence work accounted for almost a third of sales. Today, it is less than 7 per cent. The group swapped sailing defence businesses for high-margin businesses in the environmental and data acquisition markets and widened its international spread.

The speed of the shift into high-margin business has accelerated in 1993, with four acquisitions worth £35 million. The £64 million rights proceeds will enable the group to continue at that rate. It needs to, because high-margin business accounts for only 5 per cent of sales.

The group underlines the success of recent profit by forecasting record profit in 1993, in spite of an inevitable setback on the Continent. The cash call merits support on the group's record, but the shares' upside looks limited.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Meyer tees off at Heathrow

ASHLEY Meyer, dynamic managing director of the famous Lillywhites sporting store, saw his dreams for global expansion come a step nearer yesterday, when he opened a new Lillywhites shop at Heathrow airport. The duty free shop in Terminal Three is the first of several planned, and is a model for many such outlets that it is hoped will sprout around the world. "Our first priority was to make the store profitable," says Meyer, who has spent more than £10 million upgrading the Piccadilly Circus store since he came in as managing director in 1989. "A second shop is due to open at Gatwick North in August." The omens were good yesterday, with the Heathrow shop taking £1,500 in the first hour-and-a-half, and Meyer hopes Lillywhites golf clubs, rugby shirts and other delights will soon be found further afield. A draft agreement has been signed with Incheape, the international trading group, with a view to opening joint venture stores in the Middle East and Orient from 1995 onwards. The store, owned by Forte,

eventually hopes that 75 per cent of its earnings will come from abroad.

After Agnew?

COULD Kleinwort Benson at long last be ready to announce the name of a successor to Jonathan Agnew, who was ousted as chief executive in May? I hear that KB directors have been summoned to a meeting on Tuesday, fuelling speculation that "something big" is in the air. No comment was forthcoming from the firm, but insiders are hoping for a welcome Christmas present. The tortuous hunt for the new chief executive has proved

deeply embarrassing, with at least three City figures reputed to have turned the job down. Now, perhaps Lord Rockley has found his man...

Salary stakes

BAR staff, receptionists and British Rail cooks are among the worst-paid employees in Britain. And the top salaries are reserved for barristers and national newspaper editors, according to a survey in the new edition of *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Bar assistants (£5,786), BR cooks (£7,592), receptionists (£9,037) and ambulance workers (£9,903) are on the lowest rungs of the pay

ladder, according to statistics culled from a variety of sources. Few will be surprised to learn that top QC's earn in excess of £200,000; outclassed only by national newspaper editors, who are reputed to earn between £80,000 and £250,000 and up. Other top earners include advertising creative directors (£95,379) and Cabinet ministers (£63,047). The survey touches on accountancy and banking, but leaves stockbroking salaries to the imagination. With fat bonuses back in favour, top City earners would knock the others for six.

Peace feeler

WITH Michael Heseltine poised to rule on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the future of British Gas, a seasonal surprise was in store for two influential players in the saga — Clara Sporiswoode, newly appointed director-general of Ofgas, and James Cooper, chairman of the Gas Consumers Council. Gil Hogg, director of regulatory operations at British Gas, has sent each of them a Christmas card depicting the white dove of peace.

JON ASHWORTH



Message number two, Monday 10:35am 'Hello Phil, the meeting's changed...'

Message forward for Phil Munro

Memo, Monday 3:40pm, 'Call John to chase the fax...'

Message forward number 'Mercury... 0277 228888'

You have five messages

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THE TIMES LINT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

BUSINESS SERVICES
 ORCHESTRAL PLAYS

Record run continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1

MEDIUMS (6 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
44	30	Barclays Bank	44.0	0.0	11.8	12.1



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High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100	50	British Airways	100.0	0.0	11.8	12.1
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INFOTECH

The rise of the fail-safe network

System failure can endanger lives and cost money. Matthew May reports on the computer network that solves its own problems

While many businesses have been chasing cost savings in their computing budgets, as prices fall and PCs become ever more powerful, for a substantial minority cost is a secondary consideration.

In the field of critical computer applications, where the result of even a temporary failure is too serious to be contemplated, the prime question is which is the best of the different methods available to provide computers that are almost infallible?

The failure of a machine can endanger lives, most recently illustrated by the problems with a new computerised emergency system for the London Ambulance Service, which failed to cope with demand. In the finance industry, computer failure for a few hours can result in huge financial losses.

One solution to the problems that may arise is the so-called "fault-tolerant" computer. The theory is that by duplicating components the number of times a computer fails can be drastically reduced. When part of the system breaks down other parts should be able to take over and ensure that normal working can continue.

Fault tolerance is a field dominated by two companies, Tandem and Stratus. Tandem customers range from those using computers for the most critical uses — emergency services such as the Greater Manchester fire brigade — to the trivial — ensuring that a karaoke bar in Japan never fails to come up with just the song you want.

But the majority of British customers want fault-tolerant computers for financial transactions. The result is that all the major British banks and many others around the world use Tandem products. Tandem boasts that most of the world's money is moved on its computers, and that it also supplies every large telecommunications company in Europe.

Other customers include manufacturers with 24-hour production lines, such as the large volume car producers, most of the modern stock exchanges and airline reservation system operators.

Providing fault tolerance has always been more expensive than conventional computing. With ever cheaper systems being developed by downsizing to personal computers, that gap has widened.

But fault-tolerant computer manufacturers say they too have cut prices and increased performance. Tandem's Himalaya range of computers, for example, is now priced from less than £20,000. Tandem says that the typical customer is able to pay back the extra costs of a fault-tolerant

The promise is to prevent four out of every five breakdowns on a computer network

system within a year from the cost savings of avoiding breakdowns.

But even if a computer and its software can be made near infallible for these "bet the business" applications as James Treibig, chief executive of Tandem, likes to put it, there are other areas that can go wrong and for some users produce near catastrophic results.

Many older generation mainframes and minicomputers have now been replaced by PCs linked together with larger computers, which are known as "servers", that can hold shared information and provide more specialised software not held on the desktop. Known as "client-server" computing, it has spread rapidly and is heavily reliant on the use of local area networks. The Gartner Group, a research consultancy, predicts that

by 1995 more than two thirds of the new systems being installed in companies will operate this way.

But the result of a network failing can be just as serious as a computer breakdown. One study claimed that PC networks fail on average twice a month and that it typically takes a couple of hours before they are working again.

For many users working to weekly or monthly deadlines such breakdowns may be acceptable but for others the problem is how to get the cost savings from downsizing but end up with a system that hardly ever goes wrong.

Though the more dangerous methods of linking PCs, such as connecting computers in such a manner that if one link becomes faulty the whole chain goes down, are becoming rare, even more advanced network designs may not be able to provide an instantaneous method of rerouting information across a network if part of it fails.

Tandem now claims it has come up with an answer, the fault-tolerant network that, like its computers, comes with the promise that it will rarely break down. Along with its subsidiary, Ungermann-Bass, Tandem has announced a set of products that it promises can prevent four out of every five breakdowns on a computer network. The new products should withstand any single point of failure on a network and provide an alternative path from a server to the desktop PC without the individual user noticing that anything has gone wrong. They will be on sale from next spring.

The additional cost of creating this fault-tolerant link compared with a conventional local area network should not be more than £150 for each desktop computer wired in, says the company.

Tandem has not been immune to the effect of the recession and there have been both layoffs and losses. But if the fault-tolerant network lives up to its promise it will at least be being sold into a fast-expanding market. And like other products of the computer industry, networks are becoming more powerful — something which will allow them to be used in new ways.



Computer failure can bring financial dealing rooms to a standstill

under the Ethernet technology used on most networks. The companies argue that business customers have been hitting hurdles in trying to move large amounts of data within their networks and that there is a need for a greater "bandwidth" as networks start to be used for data intensive applications such as imaging and video-conferencing.

And if fault-tolerant networks do become popular, then the excuse that companies cannot provide information, help customers or pay out cheques because "the computer is down" will become even less believable than it is today.

ONLINE

Hello, hello

MERCURY One-to-One, the mobile phone network that launched within an area bounded by the M25 in September, has expanded its coverage to nearby towns such as St Albans, Maidstone and Slough, as well as Gatwick Airport.

The service, which now covers an area in which ten million people live, is planned to cover a quarter of the UK population by next spring and 90 per cent by the end of the decade.

of chips used in personal computers. Dataquest, a market research firm, says American companies control 41.9 per cent of the world semiconductor market compared with 41.4 per cent for Japanese makers.

Hi-tech festival

ONE in three British families plans to have computer-related presents under their Christmas tree next week, according to a survey conducted by MORI for Dell, the PC manufacturers.

Those with young children between five and eight are seen as particularly keen, with more than half



those questioned expected to buy at least one computer-related present. Parents will spend an average of about £200.

Epilepsy survey

COMPUTER games, suspected of being a possible cause of epilepsy among young players, are no more likely to trigger epileptic seizures than television, according to a National Epilepsy Society study, commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry. The report says that out of about 30,000 people in Britain who have their first epileptic seizure every year, about 600 are susceptible to fits triggered by television, video games, computer graphics and other flashing light sources.

Up to 150 people a year may have their first seizure triggered by playing a video game, but the report estimates that television will touch off about the same number of fits.

Chips up

IN a remarkable turnaround for a once-troubled industry, American semiconductor makers retook the lead in chip production this year, surpassing Japan for the first time in eight years.

The American gains reflect improved manufacturing technology, bad economic conditions in Japan, and strong American sales

Bargain buy

AN IBM compatible PC using the 286 chip is the latest piece of old but cheap computer technology on offer from Brands Direct. The company is selling a batch of Pro 3000s, manufactured by the Daewoo Corporation, which include 1MB of RAM, a 20MB hard disc and 14in mono monitor for £350 including VAT, or £445 with a colour monitor. Further information from 0800 881100.

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فكر من الأصل

David Hewson on how manufacturers are gearing software to educational needs



Syracuse Language Systems produces a version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears on CD-ROM to teach youngsters foreign languages

Children zap into learning

Children are the computer industry's latest dream market. By diverting them from the games of Sega and Nintendo towards a new blend of education and entertainment — "edutainment" in the jargon — computer firms believe that PCs will finally make the jump from commercial tool to everyday consumer item.

While parents would like to provide their offspring with a ticket to the USS Enterprise, they fear that they will instead be sold a bit part in *Wild Pines*.

Last week, Microsoft, the world's biggest software company, announced two ESO packages for writing and artwork aimed at children aged eight to 14, with the hope that they will make creative work on the PC as much fun as Sonic the Hedgehog and considerably better for young minds.

Yet for all the predictions of growth in the use of PCs, serious doubts remain about whether children benefit from much of the software on offer. Many of today's products are overpriced and underpowered when compared with a simple book.

Then there is the fear factor: parents fear their children will be left behind if they do not have access to a PC, but they also fear that a childhood spent face to face with a computer screen may produce some sort of technophobia.

Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder and chairman, once famously referred to

children as "basically a subset of the family", but now maintains that he is bringing creativity and liberation to the world's youngsters, not enslavement by the PC. "You have kids today sitting in front of television hour after hour. In no way are they interacting. A PC is a tool for learning and creativity, much more so than a TV set or video game."

Larry Rothenberg, the vice-president of Syracuse Language Systems in New York, produces some of the most acclaimed educational software in America, is scathing about the general standard of programs on the market.

The company was launched out of a project started at Syracuse University in 1985. It now has a family of highly original applications on CD-ROM that

use games and stories, such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, to teach familiarity with foreign languages using speech and graphics, but without written word.

"Very few children's educational software development efforts are preceded by a research stage where content experts, children's learning experts and technologists work together," Mr Rothenberg says. "It is no wonder that products fall short without such research. Children's minds are unpredictable, and many first efforts are bound not to work."

Mr Rothenberg says that lack of research means that children's packages run aground for a variety of reasons: they are boring; they are fun but fail to teach; they are cheap

derivatives from another medium, books, videotapes or films; or that they merely contain drills using skills that the child already has.

"Perhaps the most insidious group are products that teach things that are already being taught in a functioning household. This includes early learning skills and even reading."

"What child requires a computer to learn colours, shapes, sizes, addition, subtraction or the alphabet? And I would suggest that once a child learns the basics of reading on the lap of a parent or teacher, what he or she needs is books, books and more books."

"If a given piece of software is keeping a child from reading a book, it is probably lessening his or her reading ability. The simple truth is that, for most children in homes that have computers, there is no need for software that teaches many of these early learning skills."

But if Mr Gates is right, Microsoft's resident cartoon character, McZee, will become as familiar to young children as Nintendo's Mario. Bright blue and dressed in ever-changing outlandish costumes, McZee pops up throughout the software to help the user learn the application.

Mr Rothenberg agrees that the software must be fun, but fun in its place. "Good educational software for children should teach something that needs teaching. It should be fun or children will not use it, and the fun should be connected to learning."

In search of a rare communication talent

Specialists in IT and business can name their terms and salary

Specialists in information technology with other strings to their bows are in increasing demand as companies try to tie their computer and communication systems more closely to business processes.

"This is becoming more and more significant as organisations become more customer focused and use IT to support their business," says John McManus, head of multinational services at the management consultancy KPMG.

"You've now got some very high-powered systems integrated across different areas of an organisation, and they have to be installed, tuned up and operated at high speed."

"That takes people capable of looking across the business, capable of talking as easily about the financial cycle or the production cycle as about IT, and about the relationships between them."

Mr McManus can talk with some authority on how rare these combinations of skills can be because he has been trying to recruit just such individuals. Other large consultancies — including Coopers & Lybrand and Touche Ross — as well as software houses are also looking for combined IT and business knowledge.

"My own group started off as one which brought together accounting and IT specialists," Mr McManus says. "Now it has grown to include manufacturing, logistics, even doctors in the health sector."

For people with the right background or potential, salaries of £30,000 are just the starting point, he says.

DP Options is a recruitment agency which, earlier this year, was commissioned to find recruits with experience of the SAP package of programs, modular software for integrating business functions such as accounts, manufacturing, distribution and management information.

Looking for five or more years of commercial and IT experience, it quoted salaries of £25,000 to £40,000 plus substantial benefits.

"The right people are very thin on the ground," says Carole Weedon, a director of the agency. "The people we have placed with SAP experience are very marketable."

Tony Coombes, professional services director for IT contract supplier Systems Re-

facturing or banking. "When people get contract staff or consultants in they want a greater breadth of experience than they can find in-house."

There are several different profiles that Mr McManus thinks might qualify an IT professional for a ride on the new wave. "I'd be looking for relevant business experience in a good quality company, and experience of implementing projects that have succeeded. It could be a user who has been involved in a heavy user management role, or a team leader, ideally using one of the leading packages."

"At a higher level, maybe someone who has managed a cross-functional project, perhaps restructuring a department. If they are used to working in multi-disciplinary and multinational teams, the sky is the limit," he says.

DAVID GUEST



John McManus: on the lookout for a combination of skills

Of mice, pens and big ears

Gift ideas for the computer buff who seems to have everything

What kind of Christmas present do you get for the computer user who has everything? Your favourite boffin has a high-powered desktop personal computer, lots of memory, a CD-ROM drive and all the big, popular software packages you can imagine.

However, there are probably a few, new off-beat items that even the most ardent PC users will not yet have heard of.

Consider, for example, the merits of a new microphone for PC users developed by Blue Sky Technologies of Livermore, California.

The greatest distinguishing characteristic of this microphone? It is shaped like a human ear. Known as Ear Mic, it is actually a combination of a microphone and amplifier packaged in an ear-shaped casing. Ear Mic runs on batteries, weighs less than seven ounces, attaches to the side of most surfaces with the use of two velcro strips and comes with a three-foot coaxial cable to connect it to your PC.

Marc Roberts, the president of Blue Sky, suggests that buyers may even want to decorate it with ear-rings. "With about 250,000 sound cards sold each month, we recognised that no one was addressing the microphone aspects of multimedia with anything specific," he says.

Mr Roberts also suggests that there are problems with a lack of sensitivity with unamplified microphones and that users do not often know where they should put them. Ear Mic sells in America for \$33 (£22) and interested British buyers can bend his ear on 0101-510-447-3277.

If you do not want to lend an ear to that idea, you might want to look at something that finally settles the issue of whether the pen is mightier than the mouse.

Over the past few years, there has been a great deal of interest in controlling PCs by using devices such as a handheld mouse or pen controllers. Now another Californian

company has developed a PC controller that is a cross between the mouse and the pen. Known as PC Stylus, it is a pen-like device with two buttons along the side and a small flat area at the base.

The area at the base of the PC Stylus contains a small steel ball and a mouse-like controlling mechanism that offers precise enough "tracking" to be used like a pen.

Imisi, makers of the PC Stylus, claims that it eliminates the "hand fatigue" associated with using a mouse — while being small enough to be a worthwhile companion to portable computers. It sells for

£30 and is available from Imisi on 081-758 1447.

Finally, perhaps a new style of screen saver may do the trick. Berkeley Software, makers of the popular After Dark screen saver — which puts fun images on the PC display whenever you are not using it, ostensibly to prevent the "burn-in" of images on the screen — also makes a screen saver based on the *Star Trek* television series.

It puts the images and sounds of the original 1960s television series on your screen whenever you don't touch the keyboard for a few minutes. This is widely available from dealers and typically sells for less than £40.

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Baby takes priority over child mother

Birmingham City Council v H (a Minor) and Others
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Jauncey of Galloway, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf
[Speeches December 16]

Where a local authority sought an order under section 34(4) of the Children Act 1989 to terminate contact between a baby in care and his mother, who was also a child in care, the welfare of the baby was to be given priority over that of the mother.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by R, a child aged two in care, through his guardian *ad litem*, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans) (*The Times* February 23, 1993; 1 FLR 883) which had allowed an appeal by his mother, M, aged 19, the adoptive daughter of Mr and Mrs H but in the care of Birmingham City Council, from the decision of Mr Justice Cunniff on November 27, 1992 granting the council leave to terminate contact between R and M.

Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Patrick Roche for R; Mr Michael Horowitz, QC and Mr Michael Ponsanovsky for the council; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC and Miss Elizabeth Sawford for M; Mr Malcolm Bishop, QC and Miss Rehma Azim for the father, Mr Roderic Wood, QC and Mr David Travers for M's guardian *ad litem*.

LORD KEITH, agreeing with Lord Slynn's reasons for allowing the appeal, added that it was desirable that something be said about the level of separate representation of parties, all at public expense, which was a feature of the appeal.

Proceeding through his guardian *ad litem* had been represented by solicitors and by senior and junior counsel funded by the Legal Aid Board, and rightly so. The council, which supported the appeal, had been similarly represented, at the expense of the Birmingham community charge or council tax payers.

Separate solicitors and also senior and junior counsel had appeared for each of the mother, the father and the guardian *ad litem* to the mother. Those three had lodged a joint written case. The mother and the father were funded by the Legal Aid Board, and the mother's guardian *ad litem* by the council. There was no significant difference between the parties for those who supported the appeal or between the arguments for those who resisted it.

In the circumstances, there had to be a serious question whether the degree of separate representation was necessary, or in any event

whether the employment of so many senior counsel was justified. It was to be hoped that in future cases where a similar question might arise serious consideration would be given by solicitors and counsel to the practicality and desirability where appropriate of securing joint representation with a view to minimising the burden on public funds.

LORD SLYNN said that R had been born in October 1991; his mother M was born in 1977. Each of them was at all material times a "child" for the purposes of the 1989 Act. The council applied to the court for leave to refuse M contact with R and M had applied for an order that she should have contact with R.

Mr Justice Cunniff had said that there was a strong likelihood that R would suffer significant harm because of inadequate care on the part of his mother. It was important that R should be adopted as soon as possible.

As to contact, the judge had said that only in exceptional circumstances should contact between a mother and a young baby be prevented. However, he had taken the view that occasional contact in secure accommodation, as had been proposed, could prove distressing both for M and for R, and that there was a clear risk of physical harm to R.

He had said: "... it is R's welfare which must be my paramount consideration. He is the child and in this context M is the parent. Contact is the right of the child, not of the parent. Where conflict arises, his welfare ... takes priority over M's welfare."

The judge accordingly made, *inter alia*, an order under section 34(4) terminating contact between R and M, save for contact by way of exchange of information only twice a year.

The Court of Appeal had taken the view that the question of contact with M related to the upbringing of R, and that the question of contact with R related to the upbringing of M. It was impossible to give each of them paramountcy and the Act did not indicate that, where parent and child were both children, the father's interests were in priority.

On the contrary, while the welfare of M and R taken together was to be considered as paramount to the interests of any adults concerned in their lives, as between themselves the court had to consider the question of their welfare without giving one priority over the other.

The Court of Appeal conducted that balancing exercise. Lord Justice Balcombe had said: "It is ... premature to give the council leave to terminate contact ... contact

may be positively beneficial to M and, provided that it is adequately monitored, should not, in the short term at least, be detrimental to R. The position will have to be reassessed when a suitable long-term placement for R is found."

The judge's order was set aside.

It was clear that the draftsman of the statute had not specifically provided for the situation where both parent and child were children within the meaning of the Act. Although wider arguments had been addressed on the basis of other sections of the Act, the problem was resolved on an analysis of section 34.

The starting point was that by subsection (1) the appropriate authority had to allow the child in care reasonable contact with four categories of person: a parent, a guardian, a person in whose favour a residence order was in force, or a person who had the care of the child immediately before the care order in question was made.

If there was an issue about contact any one of those persons could apply to the court under subsection (3) for a contact order "between the child and that person". For that purpose, "the child" was the child in care in respect of whom an order was sought by the court. That child was the subject matter of the application. The question to be determined related to that child's upbringing and it was that child's welfare which had to be the court's paramount consideration.

The fact that the parent was also a child did not mean that both parents and child's welfare were paramount and that each had to be

balanced against the other. Under subsection (3) the question to be determined did not relate to the applicant's upbringing, even if the applicant was a child.

By subsection (2), "On an application made by the authority or the child, the court may make such order as it considers appropriate with respect to the contact which is to be allowed between the child and any named person".

In that application the child to care might apply and, if that child was the applicant, it was that child's welfare which was directly involved and which was paramount even if the other named person was also a child. The welfare of any other named person, even if a child, was not also paramount so as to require a balancing exercise to be carried out.

It had to be doubted whether a parent was ever intended to be included within the category of "child" in section 34(2) even if the parent was also a child. In any event, an order under subsection (2) did not legally oblige the person named to have contact with the child, even if that contact would normally take place where such an order was made.

By subsection (4) the court could make an order, if the child in care or the authority made an application, authorising the authority to refuse to allow contact between the child in care and a person belonging to one of the four categories of person in subsection (1) who was named in the order. Thus the court might authorise refusal to allow contact between the child in care and the parent.

The child in respect of whose upbringing a question was to be determined by the court was the son or daughter of the parent named in the order and it was that child's welfare which was to be paramount. The fact that the parent was also a child did not require the balancing exercise to be carried out since no question was to be determined as to the parent's upbringing.

When the court decided that it was appropriate to authorise the authority to refuse contact under subsection (4) with R, the child in care whose welfare for that purpose was paramount, it was bound to refuse the application by M under subsection (3) when a question arose as to R's upbringing and when his welfare was paramount.

And it was of no value to make an order under subsection (2) for M to have contact with R when contact between R and M could be refused by the authority as a result of the court's order under subsection (4).

It had not therefore been necessary for any balancing exercise to be performed. The judge had been right to consider that R's welfare was the court's paramount consideration and it was impossible to say that he erred in the exercise of his discretion in prohibiting contact.

LORD JAUNCEY, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Woolf agreed.

Solicitors: Barbara Carter, Birmingham; Mr S. A. Dobson, Birmingham; Young & Lee, Birmingham; Plunkett Lohmus & Co, Birmingham; Adie Evans & Warner, Birmingham.

No exemption from capital duty

Guinness plc v Inland Revenue Commissioners
Before Mr Justice Rattee
[Judgment December 10]

Appointments procedures inserted into the contract under which Guinness plc in 1986 acquired the entire share capital of Distillers Company plc did not have the effect of exempting the transaction from the capital duty then payable under section 47 of the Finance Act 1973.

The terms of Guinness' offer document did not enable it to establish its claim to the exemption contained in paragraph 10(2)(b) of Schedule 19 to the Act because the provisions in the offer document for the allocation of stock units, preference shares and cash to which the Distillers' shareholders were entitled had been made as an attempt to gain the benefit of the exemption from the duty in paragraph 10 of Schedule 19 to the 1973 Act.

ing an appeal by Guinness against an assessment by the Inland Revenue Commissioners to duty of £20,766,434 made in June 1991 in consequence of its acquisition of the issued share capital of Distillers.

The provisions for payment of capital duty were repealed by section 141 of the Finance Act 1983.

Mr Andrew Park QC for Guinness; Mr Christopher McCall, QC and Mr Nicholas Warren, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE said that Guinness candidly accepted that the provisions in its offer document for the allocation of stock units, preference shares and cash to which the Distillers' shareholders were entitled had been made as an attempt to gain the benefit of the exemption from the duty in paragraph 10 of Schedule 19 to the 1973 Act.

Mr Park did not seriously resist the proposition that a takeover by a company in the position of Guinness of a company in the position of Distillers by purchasing its shares for a mixed consideration of shares and cash was intended to be made chargeable to duty on the issue of new shares in the acquiring company.

But Mr Park claimed an escape from such liability because of the machinery of allocation provided for in the offer document of the shares in Distillers acquired between stock and shares in cash on the one hand, and cash on the other.

The fact that the appointment procedure was included in the offer document solely for the purpose of bringing the transaction within the exemption was no bar to Guinness' argument if it was otherwise sound. But it was not.

The contract constituted by the offer and acceptance was an indivisible contract for the transfer of all the Distillers' shares held by the accepting shareholders for a composite consideration consisting of new stock units and cash, except where an accepting shareholder exercised an option to take all cash or all stock units or a mixture of stock units and preference shares.

The contract, notwithstanding the appointment provisions, remained a contract to acquire all the accepting shareholders' Distillers' shares for the consideration expressed in the offer document. It followed that Guinness had failed to discharge the burden on it of satisfying the condition for exemption required by paragraph 10(2)(b) of Schedule 19.

For the consideration given by Guinness for all the shares acquired from a Distillers' shareholder who had not elected to take all stock or preference shares was a consideration which included a cash element in excess of the maximum 10 per cent of the nominal value of shares included in the consideration permitted in paragraph 10(2)(b).

Solicitors: Freshfields; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Home Office can be liable for official misfeasance

Rae v Home Office
Before Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Galloway, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill
[Speeches December 16]

The Home Office was capable of being vicariously liable for acts of prison officers amounting to misfeasance in public office. The plaintiffs' claim should be tried by judge alone.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Steven Rae, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Kennedy) (*The Times* December 17, 1992) in so far as it related to the striking out of paragraph 6 of the plaintiffs' statement of claim against the Home Office alleging misfeasance. The Court of Appeal had dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff from Mrs Justice Ebsworth (*The Times* November 25, 1992), who had struck out paragraph 6 on the Home Office's application and rejected the plaintiffs' submission that this action should be tried by a jury.

Mr David Harris, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Guy Sankey, QC and Mr Neil Garman for the Home Office.

LORD JAUNCEY said that on March 9, 1988, the plaintiff had been a remand prisoner in Armley Prison, Leeds. On March 8, 1991, he had issued a writ against the Home Office claiming damages and aggravated and exemplary damages in respect of events occurring in the prison on March 9 in 1988.

In his amended statement of claim he alleged that he had suffered ill-treatment at the hands of prison officers and claimed damages under three heads: assault and battery, negligence, and misfeasance in public office.

He averred that the Home Office was the department of state responsible for prisons and the actions of its servants working therein. He described how he had been assaulted by certain prison officers and removed from an open ward in the hospital wing of the prison in a strip cell where his clothes had been forcibly removed.

Paragraph 6 stated: "... the officers who ordered the plaintiff's removal/location in the strip cell knew that he had no lawful power ... for such removal/location and/or were motivated by malice and their actions thereby amounted to misfeasance in public office."

The Court of Appeal had ordered paragraph 6 to be struck out on the ground that in law the Home Office could not be vicariously liable for misfeasance in public office by its officers. They had reached that conclusion because of the decision of the

House of Lords in *Weldon v Home Office* (*The Times* July 25, 1991; [1992] 1 AC 58), in particular certain observations of Lord Bridge of Harwich.

Having looked at *Weldon* in some detail, his Lordship concluded that it did not support the proposition that the Home Office could not be vicariously liable for acts of prison officers amounting to misfeasance in public office.

Striking out paragraph 6 could only be justified if the inevitable result of proof of the averments in it was that the unauthorised acts of the prison officers had been so unconnected with their authorised duties as to be quite independent of and outside those duties.

Mr Harris had pointed out that it was likely to be a question of fact and degree whether the officers had been engaged in a misguided and unauthorised method of performing their authorised duties or in what had been tantamount to an unlawful frolic of their own.

There was substance in that submission. It was impossible to determine the precise character of officers' actions on which would depend the liability or otherwise of the Home Office for their acting from a perusal of the pleadings alone.

That could only be done after the facts had been established. There being no compulsion to strike out paragraph 6 by reason of *Weldon*, the case had to go to trial on the whole pleadings as they stood.

Trial by jury in civil cases was governed by section 69 of the Supreme Court Act 1981:

"(1) Where ... the court is satisfied that there is an issue ... (b) a claim in respect of libel, slander, malicious prosecution or false imprisonment ... the action shall be tried with a jury ..."

"(2) An action to be tried in the Queen's Bench Division which does not fall by virtue of subsection (1) shall be tried with a jury unless the court in its discretion orders it to be tried with a jury."

In *Goldsmith v Pressdram Ltd* (*Notes* [1988] 1 WLR 64, 76) Lord Justice Slade said: "... Parliament, in enacting section 69, has indicated its clear intention that trial without a jury should be the normal mode of trial for any Queen's Bench action which does not, by virtue of subsection (1), fall to be tried with a jury."

Mr Harris, while accepting that section 69(1) created a presumption against jury trial, argued that issues, including the question of exemplary damages, that were likely to arise when the case went to trial were so closely related to those that would arise in a case of false imprisonment, where a right to jury trial existed, that the

presumption should be rebutted and discretion exercised in favour of allowing a jury trial.

His Lordship could see no logical connection between, say, libel and false imprisonment, nor any common factor in slander and malicious prosecution.

Each tort was capable of being committed by a private individual or by an official of the state, and in very different circumstances.

One was left with a strong impression that Parliament had retained the four torts in section 69(1)(b) for historical rather than any logical reason, from which it followed that the similarity to any of those of some other tort was not a factor that had to be taken into account by the court in determining, in the exercise of its discretion, whether it was appropriate to rebut the presumption in section 69(1).

Lord Justice Neill had considered whether that was an exceptional case where jury trial should be ordered. He had taken into account the fact that there was a claim for exemplary damages. He had considered that a jury might appropriately be called on to decide whether an individual had been subjected to arbitrary or oppressive actions by servants of government.

On the other hand, he had referred to the facts that the action neither raised matters of constitutional importance nor involved the actions of senior officials and that the injuries alleged, although unpleasant, were not grave.

His Lordship did not think that the manner in which Lord Justice Neill had exercised his discretion could be faulted. It is his Lordship's duty to consider all the factors that Mr Harris said should have been taken into account and had not had regard to any factors that he should not have done.

Lord Justice Balcombe had also had regard to the possible lengthening of the trial by its consequent expense and the possibility of the jury disagreeing. His approach had been slightly different from that of Lord Justice Neill, but there was no justification for criticising the manner in which the Court of Appeal as a whole had exercised its jurisdiction.

His Lordship would have come to the same conclusion. The apparent uncertainty as to the precise ambit of the tort of misfeasance in public office, with the consequent likelihood of prolonged legal argument in the absence of the jury, would have been a further factor militating against trial by jury.

Lord Templeman, Lord Goff, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

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POP page 36

Evan Dando and The Lemonheads recorded one of Caitlin Moran's albums of the year

ARTS

POP page 37

Chanteuse Patricia Kaas is a major star in her native France, but how will she fare overseas?



Nice book if you can get it

Benny Green celebrates the unfailing wit of Ira Gershwin, whose complete song lyrics are published next month

Gifted lyricists, like gifted writers of other kinds, cannot help putting themselves into their work. Al Dubin, whose work enjoyed a spectacular revival with *42nd Street*, was the streetwise cynic among songwriters, a city slicker whose worldly experience comes through in songs like "Shuffle Off to Buffalo", "Lulu's Back in Town", and most famous of all, "Hullaby of Broadway", which he wrote to ease the withdrawal pains of his partner Harry Warren, homesick under the Pacific sun-light of Beverly Hills. It was Dubin again who made a coded confession regarding his private ex-

And it is worth remembering that George Gershwin numbered among his favourite lyricists Noel Coward. Nor should we forget P.G. Wodehouse — "whose song lyrics," wrote Alan Lerner, "inaugurated the modern American musical."

In this pantheon, what place does Ira Gershwin occupy? Probably somewhere between Porter's elegance and Hart's ingenuity, although it must be said that Ira was a far gentler creature than any of his rivals. He was also an essentially bumble man, a paragon of modesty ever eager to point out that it was brother George who had the genius.

They made a stark contrast.

George was a dazler, an extrovert, a ladies' man, a snappy dresser who took a childlike delight in his own pearls of musical wisdom. Ira, by contrast, was bookish, retiring, unenergetic, a dedicated Anglophile who steeped himself in English literature and spent a long life

'Ira was ever eager to say that it was George who had genius'

marvelling at the apparently endless inventiveness of his idol, W.S. Gilbert.

The other object of his admiration was, another Englishman, Wodehouse, a lifelong friend and sometime partner. In a letter to me dated 1962, Ira wrote: "I'm with you a hundred percent that Wodehouse's talent in this field has never been fully recognised. So far as I'm concerned, no one wrote more charming lyrics than he in the period from just before World War I to the early 1920s. Certainly I admired him greatly."

This mutual admiration society was to bear exotic fruits just before the death of George. The screen adaptation of Wodehouse's novel, *A Damsel in Distress*, including one song, "Stiff Upper Lip", which Ira, on his own confession, wrote as a tribute to Wodehouse, incorporates Wodehousean signs like:

... where a ghost and a prince meet, and everyone ends as mince meat.



They got rhythm: the original 1930 chorus line for George and Ira Gershwin's *Girl Crazy*. A much-altered version, *Crazy for You*, is currently playing in London

Stiff upper lip, stout fella!
Carry on old fella!
Chin up! Keep muddling through.
Stiff upper lip, stout fella!
When the going's rough,
Pip-pip to old man Trouble and a toodle-oo too.

So that there should be no mistake about this tribute, Ira gives as the setting for another song in the picture, "Song on the downs of Tordale Castle, located in Upper Pelham-Grenville, Wodehouse, England".

Ira became his brother's collaborator almost unintentionally. His first published song came about through his father's habit of starting a succession of wildly speculative business ventures which followed each other into bankruptcy. One of these disasters was a Turkish Bath at which nobody ever came to bathe. Ira, whose job it was to sell tickets, whiled away the empty hours by writing his first published song.

It began as an idle rhyme, "The Real American Folk Song". George was so taken by it that he set it to

music and it had a brief life in a Broadway revue. The date was 1918, and although it was another six years before the brothers finally struck the alliance which was broken only by George's death, both of them sensed that each was perfect for the other. The discovery was especially sweet for George who had been working with several writers, and now realised that the best was his own brother.

In their first full-scale Broadway show, the brothers included one of the great popular songs of the century, "The Man I Love". In the new volume of Ira's collected lyrics, the song is prefaced by Ira's witty essay describing the extraordinary rejections suffered by the song (it never did reach the Broadway stage), and the dramatic intercession of George's friend, Edwina Mountbatten, which finally established the song as a classic.

The Gershwins were especially happy with their first great success, *Lady Be Good*, because the songs were written for Fred and Adele

Astaire. Fred had first met the family when George was a teenage prodigy working as a songpluggers. They idly agreed that one day... well, the day arrived with *Lady Be Good*, and some of the best songs of Fred's career were to follow, first on Broadway with "Fascinating Rhythm", "Swonderful", and "How Long Has This Been Going On", later in Hollywood with "A Foggy Day", "They All Laughed", and "They Can't Take That Away From Me".

After George's sudden death in 1937, Ira rusticated for four years and never quite resumed his full career, although there were still classics to come. His first major project after George's death was with Kurt Weill in 1941, the psychiatric potboiler *Lady in the Dark*, whose high point was the exquisite "My Ship". Three years later Ira signed up with the old family friend, Jerome Kern, to do the songs for Gene Kelly and Rita Hayworth in *Cover Girl*. Ira's account of how he struggled to come to terms with the big ballad is worth the price of the book alone.

The song which eventually emerged was "Long Ago and Far Away". Here I can add a tiny fact which Robert Kimball, the editor and annotator of this wonderful volume, has missed. Ira told me that after writing five so-so versions of his lyric, he turned in desperation to a book by the naturalist W.H. Hudson, *Far Away and Long Ago*, and was suddenly at ease with the song.

There followed a string of shows with various writers, and one Hollywood score with Harry Warren, *The Barkleys of Broadway*, which included the unjustly neglected love song for Astaire, "You'd Be Hard To Replace". The oddest of these later works was certainly *The Shocking Miss Pilgrim* in 1947. George's notebooks were ransacked and pearls emerged, including one of the great Gershwin love songs, "For You, For Me, For Evermore".

There are dozens of incidental delights in Ira's lifework, not least of which is the wartime addendum he wrote to Noel Coward's "Don't Let's Be Beastly to the Germans":

Let our policy be "Deutschland Uber Alles"-y.
We mustn't destroy the dreams that they have spun.
Don't treat them too ignobly, They just were thinking globally, So why be provincial to the Hun?

The Complete Lyrics is a volume without blemish. It contains over 700 lyrics, and long before the end the reader has fallen once again for this gentle, erudite, eminently civilised stylistic descendant of W.S. Gilbert. As a piece of book production it is sumptuous, the photographs are irresistible, and the scholarship displayed by Kimball immense. There is only one important omission, a paragraph written by Ira in retirement:

"Since most of the lyrics in this lodgment were arrived at by fitting words mosaically to music already composed, any resemblance to actual poetry, living or dead, is highly improbable."

Improbable perhaps, but not altogether impossible. *The Complete Lyrics of Ira Gershwin* is published by Pavilion Books on January 20 (£25)

THEATRE

Women on the way up

Playhouse Creatures
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

The Puritans closed the playhouses for 18 years — longer than Mao's cultural revolution — and though they reopened soon after Charles II's return in 1660, the public's taste had changed and playwrights soon accommodated themselves to the new fashion. The first English actresses were a part of the Restoration style, both consequence and harbingers, and April De Angelis's entertaining play for Sphinx Theatre Company follows the fortunes of five women as they exploit their new-found freedom of expression.

In earlier times the majority of women whose histories are remembered belonged to the higher classes. Now women from much less privileged beginnings could, if lucky as well as gutsy, hack out a career. Nell Gwyn, famously, from selling citrus fruit in Covent Garden became mistress to the king and the ancestress of a line of Dukes. "It was a model cesspit," said gap-toothed Doll Common (Jean Marlow) as Fleur Bennett's charming Nell Bennett strolls on with a tray of oranges. And though these pretty stars of the stage achieved some command over their lives, it soon becomes clear that they did so at man's sufferance. Geraldine Fitzger-



Career women: Fleur Bennett and Geraldine Fitzgerald

aid's sparkling Rebecca Marshall falls foul of an earl and fades out of the picture, seemingly accused of witchcraft. Nicola Grier's Elizabeth Farley satisfies her ambition to be driven to the secret stairway of Whitehall Palace but pregnancy ends her career. The author hints at a deeper play than the one she has given us when Grier speaks of vainly searching for those privileged stairs again.

Nell's story, from orange peel to strawberry leaves, expresses the upward journey, and Bennett's artless smiles and sauciness give a tremendous sense of the sex appeal that caught the king's eye. Her roguish delivery of an epilogue would have turned a Puritan impure. But a more interesting story is introduced with the character of Mary Betterton, wife of one of the finest actors of the period, and played by Frances Cuka, as a pouter pigeon in red velvet.

In fragments of contemporary productions we see her

sport as an Amazon, feed asps as Cleopatra, and suffer the sleep-walking torments of Lady Macbeth. She does the last so interestingly that it would be good to see her try the whole, though it might not be an interpretation in the modern fashion. Cuka has a good sense of comedy and the author gives her an unexpected regret for the days when, anonymously, she played the male roles of Iago and Prince Hal, characters more satisfyingly energetic than any heroine except the Scottish queen. Annabel Lee's attractively simple set — red drapes, a chandelier, panels of scenery — adapts itself easily to events, of stage and on, and Sue Parrish's direction paces the merry and sad events ably until tension slackens near the end. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the details, and the pedant in me has to point out that Mrs Betterton actually survived Nell by a quarter of a century and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT

Playing safe has its own dangers

LPO/Jansons
Festival Hall

This was a revealing concert. Mariss Jansons, upon whom has been heaped lavish and justified praise (not least from me) for his dynamic conducting of the Romantic and 20th-century orchestral repertoire, tackled Schubert's Overture in the Italian Style, Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto and Mozart's Symphony No 41 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra with rather less success than one might have expected.

Without the full complement of woodwind and brass (though with probably rather too many strings to balance what there was) the orchestra sounded not quite at home in this music. It has perhaps become used to safety in numbers.

Though at the end there were those in the audience who yelled and even stood up, for this listener the results achieved were ordinary and too polite by half. Jansons did not help himself by his tendency to adopt conservative speeds — the Menuetto of the Mozart was a notable casualty of caution, as Menuettos by Mozart so often are. Not that there was any intrinsic lack of elegance in the phrasing — Jansons is far too instinctive a musician to let this kind of music interpret itself, and there were, for instance, some delicious carols that ended phrases in the symphony's Andante cantabile second movement.

But one looked in vain for the human side, for a spark of earthy humour in the finale of the Beethoven, for instance, for a really dashing cut and

thrust in the thrilling contrapuntal tangles of the finale in the Mozart, or for well defined and contrasted woodwind colours (bassoons were the notable exception) throughout the evening.

Roger Norrington and the rest of them have shown that such music can take, indeed fundamentally thrives upon, exaggeration, not courtly politeness, and you do not necessarily need period-style instruments to pursue that ideal. It also needs an intimate touch that Jansons did not on this occasion find — difficult in this hall anyway.

In the Beethoven piano concerto the thoughtful soloist was Mikhail Rudy. He played, I noticed, with wrists hanging comparatively low, which lent the sound an intrinsic and pleasing sonority but sometimes denied the music a certain sparkle and fluidity.

In the first movement there was a moment of disagreement over exactly when the orchestra should take its cue from him, due mainly to Rudy's snatched ending of his own phrase, while in the finale he imposed a slower tempo for one episode which threatened to disrupt the balance of the whole. But the Largo had breadth and dignity and beauty in abundance, and was for me the most successful music-making of the evening.

STEPHEN PETTITT

ARTS BRIEFING

Choice endings

ALAN AYCKBOURN has hit France. His play *Intimate Exchanges* has been filmed by Alain Resnais, the director of *Last Year in Marienbad*. Ayckbourn's play consists of eight scenes exploring possible outcomes of a decision by a young woman in Yorkshire: will she or won't she light up her first cigarette of the day? So Resnais has called his two-part film *Smoking/No Smoking*. Around Paris, both parts are being shown simultaneously on two screens in the same cinema, so filmgoers can choose whether to see *Smoking*, a black comedy, or the more genial *No Smoking*.

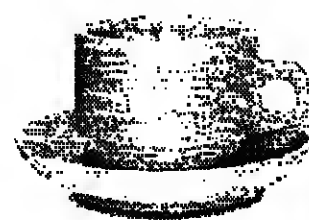
PRELIMINARY plans for next year's Edinburgh Festival (August 4 to September 3) include visits by Australian Opera, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and the Mark Morris Dance Group, the last-named returning for the third year running. Also featured again will be the work of directors Robert Lepage and Peter Stein, both big hits in 1993.

Carousel cast

OPERA singer Shirley Verrett is poised to make her musical theatre debut in New York when the National Theatre production of *Carousel* starts performances on February 18 at the Lincoln Center. Verrett, 62, will play Nettie, the role taken at the National by Patricia Routledge, and can be expected to lead a rousing rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone".

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MOTORING



Two new models among many out to win customers in the executive and middle market: Vauxhall's Omega, left, which comes in a range of 24 saloons and estates, and the BMW 316i Compact, for buyers with a tight bank balance

Car makers rev out of the recession

After 12 months spent fighting for survival, as the recession crept across the Channel to wreak havoc on the Continent, car makers are putting on a brave face and gearing up to launch dozens of new models in British showrooms in the New Year.

More than 40 new or face-lifted cars are eagerly awaited for 1994. Some manufacturers are keeping their best secrets to surprise us, but most will have something to catch the eye over the next few months.

They range from the re-introduction of a much-maligned FSO from Poland, which may have a bright future thanks to East-West co-operation, to a reborn version of the Ford Capri. Vauxhall this week also released details of its Omega, in the important executive car league, to replace the old Carlton and Senator range.

There will be no mistaking this car when it looms in the rear-view mirror, for the grille will feature a large "V" — an imprint which we are liable to see on the nose of all new Vauxhalls.

Omega comes at a crucial time

because Ford will have its own re-skinned Granada ready for launch by mid-year. The Omega will, therefore, have to be good to persuade some of the Granada faithful, who have made the car a long-time best-seller in the executive sector, to move across to the General Motors stable.

There are already some reservations about the Omega's looks which are midway between the Carlton and Senator and not as good as either. But GM has thrown the engineering book at this range of 24 saloons and estates to increase build quality, refinement, environmental features, safety and security.

The saloon body is 26 per cent stiffer than the old cars and overall finish should be better with gaps between panels reduced by 25 per cent and shut lines — between doors and bonnet lid, for example — engineered to 5mm or less, reducing wind noise. The Omega petrol engines — 2-

The launch of a host of new models is a brave attempt to made 1994 a record sales year, reports Kevin Eason

litre, 2.5 and 3-litre V6 — are claimed to be 60 per cent below present European noise limits and 8 per cent more fuel economic. The entry-level engine will offer about 130 brake horse power and a 130mph top speed, but the 200bhp British-built V6 is the star of the show and will propel the most powerful cars in the range to 149mph.

However, for the diesel version, which could represent 15 per cent of all Omega sales in Britain, GM has turned for help to the experts. BMW has adapted its own 2.5-litre turbo-diesel so that Vauxhall will have an executive tourer capable of 40 miles to the gallon but still with a top speed of 124mph.

Already the petrol engines meet environmental regulations not due until 1996 while the turbo-diesel is

equipped with a two-way catalytic converter — unlike those of some competitors.

The safety and security package is enormous. Anti-lock brakes will be standard, with airbags and three-point rear seat belts the most obvious safety measures, alongside a host of hidden features. Vauxhall's reputation for security is among the best and the Omega range will feature a new infra-red remote-control locking system with 69 billion combinations, coded radios and engine immobilisers to dissuade car thieves.

Just as eagerly awaited but about two-feet shorter is BMW's new "baby", a two-door hatchback. The German car manufacturer has effectively chopped the elegant rear from its present 3-Series to create a new four-cylinder, 1.6-litre car which will put the company back into small car territory.

The 3-Series has traditionally been pitched at the more up-market

end of the medium segment. The Compact, as it will be known, gives buyers with a tighter bank balance a chance to sample BMW's legendary engineering.

Renault is also looking for new buyers in the upper-medium segment where its new Laguna will be rubbing tyre walls with the 3-Series. Rover's 600 model and top-of-the-range Ford Mondeo.

Renault is promising a choice of four engines — 1.8-litre, 2 and 3-litre V6 petrol and a 2.2-litre diesel — in a striking body style with a nose as distinctive as the Omega.

The base 1.8-litre, which could be priced close to the Mondeo at about £11,500, will still be good enough for a top speed of 112mph and average fuel consumption of nearly 38mpg. The V6, which will come as

an automatic, packs the power with a top speed of 137mph.

Renault also claims a list as long as a driver's arm of safety and security improvements. It does, however, include what was obviously a first fruit of the recently annulled marriage with Volvo: a new child booster seat and rear-facing child seat.

The seats were developed by Volvo, which pioneered the concept of built-in child protection. Even with such a neat and welcome gimmick, the French will be bidding for attention in a crowded series of launches. They range from the sublime, with the spring introduction of the new Aston Martin DB7,

the FSO. FSO dropped out of the British market three years ago but is relaunching in January under the badge, Caro. The company could sell 15,000 cars a year by 1996. FSO will import three models, a £6,000 pick-up, a diesel at about

£7,300 and a hatchback which uses a Fiat-designed 1.5-litre engine with Vauxhall Astra injection and engine management system.

Among other makers, there are derivatives galore with the Citroën ZX estate and an estate for the popular Rover 400, plus a convertible version of the new Saab 900. Volkswagen's Golf also loses its roof in a new cabriolet.

Ford weighs in with a people carrier to rival Renault's pioneering Espace and the Probe from America which will effectively be the Ford Capri of the 1990s.

Land Rover will be busy with spring facelifts for the Discovery series and the Range Rover and an all-new Range Rover. In the autumn, Jaguar's XJ6 engine also gets a polish in the autumn... and there are many, many more.

At least the launches may lift the gloom. By the time these new models reach the showrooms, the storm clouds of recession may have finally lifted and the manufacturers will be able to bask for a while in the glory of their new models instead of worrying about their bank balances.

The Omega has 69 billion lock combinations

BMW gets back into the small car market

Personal breath testers, available here soon, could save your licence. But police are not enthusiastic

The night before could cost you today

Bill was agitated. This might have been the morning after the night before, but there was no reason to suppose he was over the limit.

The office party was just like thousands of others at this time of year: straight into the pub at the end of the working day with the car keys of every festive participant safely locked away for the night, writes Kevin Eason.

Nobody on the staff was irresponsible enough to get caught in the annual drink-drive trap. And a jolly time was had by all, thanks to plenty of rich food, much seasonal merriment and a lot of festive drink on which to float home.

There were plenty of bleary eyes the next day, but Bill was chipper enough to attack the rigours of the work station... until he blew into a new alcohol breath tester on loan to The Times.

That was when the shock set in. Bill discovered that last night's excess had turned into today's problem. He was not alone. I discovered that I, too, would have been playing with fire if I had taken the car out, even at 10 the next morning.

Neither of us felt over the limit, our speech was as articulate as it ever was going to be, we were not bumping into the furniture — but, according to our little hand-held machine, we were over the drink-drive limit.

We had the advantage of knowing that we would endanger our licences if we took the car out. We therefore had the benefit of being able to consider alternative transport.

Millions of other motorists will not have a clue this Christmas that they are breaking the law and are driving straight into a ban.

They could know if they had a personal breath tester, a simple machine which would draw the line between safe driving and a miserable Christmas.

However, the police are strongly against personal testers. Their logic is simple and persuasive. The Association of Chief Police Officers says that drivers using personal testers will be encouraged to drink up to the limit, that few understand body metabolism and that users need to wait at least 20 minutes before using an alcohol breath tester. There is also no safeguard that the tester is accurate.

The police message is clear: if you

drive, do not drink, an instruction with which every driver — even the daftest — sympathises. If only life was that simple.

I know of dozens of drivers who have no intention of over-stepping the drink-drive mark. There is the executive who enjoys a convivial lunch, then waits several hours to get over the half bottle of wine before setting off for home. Or the doctor, who accepts a couple of glasses of sherry with a grateful patient on long and tiring rounds.

The most ascetic will be right in saying they were all foolish. But how can anyone know how close to the limit they are — until they are tested at the roadside by a police officer? There is no way of running a quick check to ensure that everything is all right.

And in the case of the people who carefully lock up their car for the office Christmas party and takes a taxi, bus or tube, there is still no way of knowing what the after-effects of drink might be.

Despite objections to personal testers, other countries have found that they work. Says Stuart Brown of Alkonol Imports, which is bringing testers in from America. There, they are big business. Dozens of companies issue testers to

employees and they are freely available in bars and restaurants.

Mr Brown is selling the "Ensure" machine which is claimed to be as accurate and reliable as the police's own meter. The latter is not available on general sale to the public.

The hand-held £169 Ensure is about the size of a portable tape player and needs a single nine-volt battery. The electronic read-out is calibrated to tell drivers whether they are on or over the 80 milligrammes of alcohol legal limit.

The idea is simple: when you are ready to drive, blow into the tester and check whether you are under or over the limit.

The problem is, nobody knows how quickly they metabolise alcohol. Three pints of beer, as we discovered at The Times, has apparently little effect on some drivers, while others were way over the limit.

Dr Richard Emerson, a former Home Office expert on drink-driving, was not surprised. He says: "The trouble is, people are affected by alcohol at different rates at different times. There is no set answer to what to drink and when to drink it because people are so different."

Mr Brown says: "The machine



A breath tester that motorists use to check whether they should drive

tells you categorically when to drive and removes all doubt."

As always, the answer lies between the two. Our tests seemed to prove that some people react more slowly to alcohol than others and the danger is that drivers will use a personal tester at the wrong time and discover too late that they are really over the limit.

The morning-after drinker could benefit from a tried and trusted warning signal, which is where the Ensure machine can help.

But when it comes down to it, whom do you trust? There is only one machine that matters, and that belongs to the police. No amount of argument that you tested before driving will work in court.

How often do you really need a car?

Many people would be better off hiring, going by taxi — or even walking

Why own a machine that pumps noxious gases in the air, is being increasingly linked with ill health, takes up space, spends most of its life going nowhere and costs an arm and a leg to run?

The answer, claims John Adams, reader in geography at University College London, is that despite rising and widespread concern over the damage to the landscape and nature sites by road-building and the environmental effects of cars, many people are addicted to the notions of mobility, freedom and convenience symbolised by the internal combustion engine.

Studies indicate, however, that 95 per cent of a car's life is spent parked outside homes or near offices. A new car costs an average £9,000 and running costs are soaring. But unless you can offer people the benefits of car ownership without actually having to buy one, curbing the explosive growth of vehicles will be impossible, he says.

Dr Adams has made a few suggestions. Surveys indicate that shopping, driving into the country at weekends and holidays are the main reasons people give for needing cars. Cheap car-hire centres on every high street could play a key role in breaking society's insatiable

thirst for privately owned four wheels. Dr Adams said at a conference in London on carbon emissions from transport. The vehicles would be available for long rentals and also for a few hours.

Dr Adams said that in Manhattan, fewer people now owned cars because it was impossible to park them. Instead, taxis and public transport were used during week days and hire cars at weekends for trips outside the city.

Other measures aimed at curbing the explosive growth of car ownership include a return to old-fashioned home deliveries for groceries, which would be made day and night to houses or local collection points. Making local bus, train and light rail networks available nationally was also a key.

Vital to the success of such schemes is making the costs of hiring cheaper than that of owning and running a car. Low-cost car-hire centres also need to be sited at train stations.

Many people are happy to use public transport to get to a local station but worry about what to do at an unfamiliar destination. Another solution, said Dr Adams, was to improve information on local bus, taxis and light-rail timetables. With modern telecommunications technology, such details could be available electronically.

Dr Adams said that if government estimates on car ownership come true, 27 million more cars will be on Britain's roads in the next century.

"This will require a motorway stretching from London to Edinburgh which has 257 lanes," he told delegates to the meeting of groups from Climate Action Network, an alliance of organisations including Transport 2000, the RSPB, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and Greenpeace.

Dr Adams said the growth in the numbers of cars was damaging methods of more environmentally friendly ways of travel. For example, fewer people were now walking. Dr Adams said a 1971 survey of five British schools showed that 80 per cent of seven to eight year olds got to school on their own, many by walking. By 1991, a survey of the same schools showed that only 9 per cent went to school unaccompanied because they were taken by parents in cars because of "traffic fear".

NICK NUTTALL

Rover's good and bad news

THE PRICE of Rover cars rises from Monday by an average of 2.9 per cent. However, the company says that prices of 200 and 400 series cars will not change.

Meanwhile, early indications are that the Rover 600 is a winner, although it is difficult to tell until cars hit the used market. ADT Auctions has held early sales with the Rover and the Ford Mondeo, both launched this year, and discovered the 600 series attracting 93.5 per cent of its new price. The Mondeo was not far behind with prices averaging 89.3 per cent of new value.

Multiple fears

TOWN centres with bad parking facilities will go short of shoppers this Christmas, according to the AA. It questioned 1,400 members and discovered that quality of car parks determined where 70 per cent would shop. One in five avoid multi-storey car parks and three-quarters of women surveyed do not feel safe in one.

ROADWISE

Testing times

FROM January 2, MoT test fees are going up from £24 to £25.30 for cars and light vans and the charge for motorcycles from £10.35 to £10.80. The MoT check for diesel smoke is to be re-introduced from February 1. The Transport Department withdrew it last year after complaints of damaged engines. Electronic equipment will carry out the measurement on all vehicles registered on or after August 1, 1979.

In line for success

FORD has been celebrating the success of its investment in a new £13 million assembly line at Dagenham, Essex, which makes it the lead manufacturing plant in Europe for the Fiesta. More than 50,000 cars have rolled off the new line, which allows 98 separate assembly operations.

Calling Previa

TOYOTA is issuing a "special service

campaign" message (the rest of us know that as a recall) to owners of Previa people-carriers. The company says that driving at high speed in icy temperatures could result in the front windscreen wiper stopping.

The defect could apply to almost 3,000 vehicles and will be rectified free of charge when owners take the vehicles back to official dealers.

Super seller

FOR those wallowing in the aftermath of recession, try this for a success story. Greenhouse of Hanley in Staffordshire has been named Vauxhall's top dealer. The showroom has sold 10,000 cars this year — more than 250 a week — to take the title for the third year running.

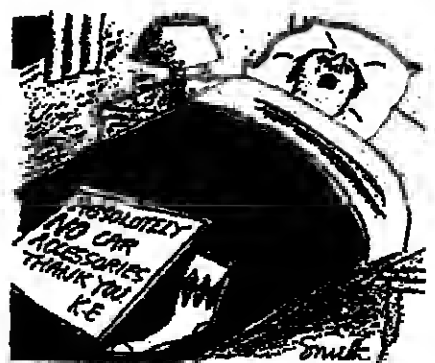
Morning sickness

MY WORST fear: to wake on Christmas morning to a stocking full of interesting car accessories. A release from Polco tells me I could be the lucky recipient of a Polco pay

and display ticket holder, price 99p, this year or even a Polco water wiper, price £3.99 — a "large flexible rubber blade that is soft enough to mould itself to the car bodywork to gently sweep away excess water in seconds".

Or, if I am really lucky, I might get a Polco in-car torch, which makes "an equally useful bedside light"... or I might just stay in bed if that is all I have to look forward to on Christmas morning.

KEVIN EASON



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707 TDE	6 WLD
TKJ 57	WRY 4
THP 300	2 WLD
TL 44	2 WLD
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Tread sternly and don't say socialism



The new Athens government has aroused misgivings, but is not likely to rock

the boat and has begun with austerity. Chris Eliou reports

Though Greece's partners in the European Union may have deep misgivings over prospects for the first half of 1994, when Athens will hold the rotating presidency, the Greeks know better. This time, they believe, there is nothing to suggest that Andreas Papandreu's new socialist government, elected in October, will play a maverick role in the councils of the EU.

When the socialist party (Pasok) was first elected to power in 1981, for what was to become an eight-year term, the watchword was "change". The Greek economy was then at the top of the boom cycle. Greece had just entered the European Community on terms that could be and were improved, and Balkan tranquillity permitted an adventurous foreign policy, including some rocking of the boat.

Today, none of that applies, and Pasok itself has changed. In the election campaign, "socialism" and "socialism" were among the words most rarely heard. Since then, in place of the heady "programme of the first 100 days", there has been an almost desperate attempt to balance budgets and to break electoral promises as slowly and inconspicuously as possible.

The Greeks voted against the conservative New Democracy government rather than for the socialists. They rejected a party that had introduced necessary but unpopular reforms closer to the end than the beginning of its term, inflicting wounds that were still bleeding when they went to the polls. They also turned against an autocratic and unpopular prime minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, aged 74, who headed a splintered administration from which some of the

most popular party figures had either withdrawn in dudgeon or been dismissed.

Mr Papandreu, who is also 74, has little of the "vision thing" to offer domestically this time, in sharp contrast to 1981. Nothing is said of nationalisation. Privatisation is to be slowed and restricted, but not totally abandoned, and only the Athens bus system has so far been listed for a form of renationalisation.

Instead of "change", there is to be continued wage austerity, retrenchment in the public services and a tax raid on the black economy. The government hopes that this will make up the shortfall from the decision to replace the privatisation of state corporations, notably telecommunications and power, with the floating of minority holdings on the stock exchange.

Greece's EU partners can take heart from the country's dependence on funding for major infrastructural projects, which will be forthcoming from Brussels only if the policy of economic convergence is uninterrupted, and then only with close supervision of funds. There will be no more of the blank cheques of the 1980s, diverted to construction of an unaffordable but vote-winning welfare state.

This dependence promises Greece's partners an easier run than might be suggested by the outburst last month from Theodoros Pangalos, the minister for European affairs. Mr Pangalos was publicly disowned by Karolos Papoulias, the foreign minister, after describing Germany as "a giant with the brain of a child".

In the Balkans, the new government does have its own policy. It sees Greece as the natural channel



Andreas Papandreu is cheered by supporters after voting in Athens in the election that returned his socialist party to power

of communications between the EU and Serbia, since it is the only EU member that is also a Balkan state, seeks closer political and economic relations with Bulgaria and Romania, and has been striving to head off the establishment of diplomatic relations with the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Macedonia is certainly the most sensitive of the foreign policy issues, and the only one on which government and opposition are in broad agreement: that recognition of the Skopje-based republic under any name containing the word "Macedonia" is tantamount to encouraging future territorial claims against the northern Greek province of the same name.

Greek threats to seal its own borders with the republic are given little credence. If only because of the bad light in which this would place Greece internationally. But Athens is bitter over yesterday's announcement that several of its EU partners, including Britain, will open diplomatic relations with Skopje. This is a breach of "Community solidarity", it claims.

There is not expected to be a further deterioration of Greece's strained relations with Turkey because of the Cyprus issue — essentially, in Greek eyes, the refusal of Turkey to withdraw its troops from the north of the island — and the various Aegean disputes. Mr Papandreu and Glafkos

Clerides, the Greek Cypriot president, recently made a joint declaration bringing the Greek part of Cyprus under Greece's defence umbrella. But though this may have caused irritation in Ankara, it is widely believed that the formula was invented to provide the Greek government with an excuse for not sending an army division to the island, something that had been requested by the Greek Cypriot government in Nicosia.

At home, Mr Papandreu faces problems that he did not confront in 1981, when he was riding a tide of popular enthusiasm. There has been a shadow over his health since he had heart bypass surgery shortly before he lost office in 1989, while

his political debts now include the scandals that helped to topple him then — and assiduous attempts to find something comparable to hold against Mr Mitsotakis have so far brought no results.

There is also now a greater degree of political fluidity, due in part to the lack of any obvious successor if ill health forces Mr Papandreu to withdraw, and in part to developments in the opposition parties.

New Democracy's defeat in October was followed quickly by the retirement of Mr Mitsotakis and the election as his successor, so far without splits in the party, of Miliades Evert, the party's consistently most effective vote-winner.

Mr Evert, aged 54, is nicknamed "the bulldozer". He is a former mayor of Athens who resigned from the second position in the Mitsotakis government over policy disagreements and as a result escaped blame for some of the actions that led to its collapse.

There will be additional challenges to Mr Papandreu, but also to Mr Evert, in two elections due next year, one in June for the European Parliament and the other in the autumn for mayors and local authorities. Neither election will put the government's survival on the line, but heavy defeats would cost it credibility, and raise a questionmark over the leadership of Mr Papandreu. By the same token, a socialist triumph would be a setback for Mr Evert.

Further off, in May 1995 a new president will have to be elected to succeed Constantine Karamanlis, the veteran statesman who will be 88 by then and is unlikely to stand again. If a general election is to be avoided, 180 of the 300 parliamentary deputies will have to agree on a candidate. The socialists have only 170 seats, and even if the communists back them, for fear of an election, they will still be one vote short.

This will put the spotlight on Antonis Samaras, 42, the firebrand nationalist — and product of the Harvard Business School — whom Mr Mitsotakis dismissed as foreign minister because of his inflexible policy on Macedonia, and who retaliated by forming the Political Spring party that first toppled the government and then won 10 seats in the October election.

Mr Samaras had spotted an opening for a new party in the area between New Democracy and the socialists, and the votes he took from Mr Mitsotakis in October gave Mr Papandreu his seemingly comfortable majority. Political Spring won 5 per cent of the vote. But Mr Samaras has yet to prove that he can consolidate his position and attract a wider following.

Mr Papandreu is at least not repeating Mr Mitsotakis' basic error of putting off unpopular measures. They have been taken at once, in the 1994 budget. But they will pay dividends only if the next election is held off for four years. This suggests that Mr Samaras is unlikely to offer Mr Papandreu a lifeline in 1995.

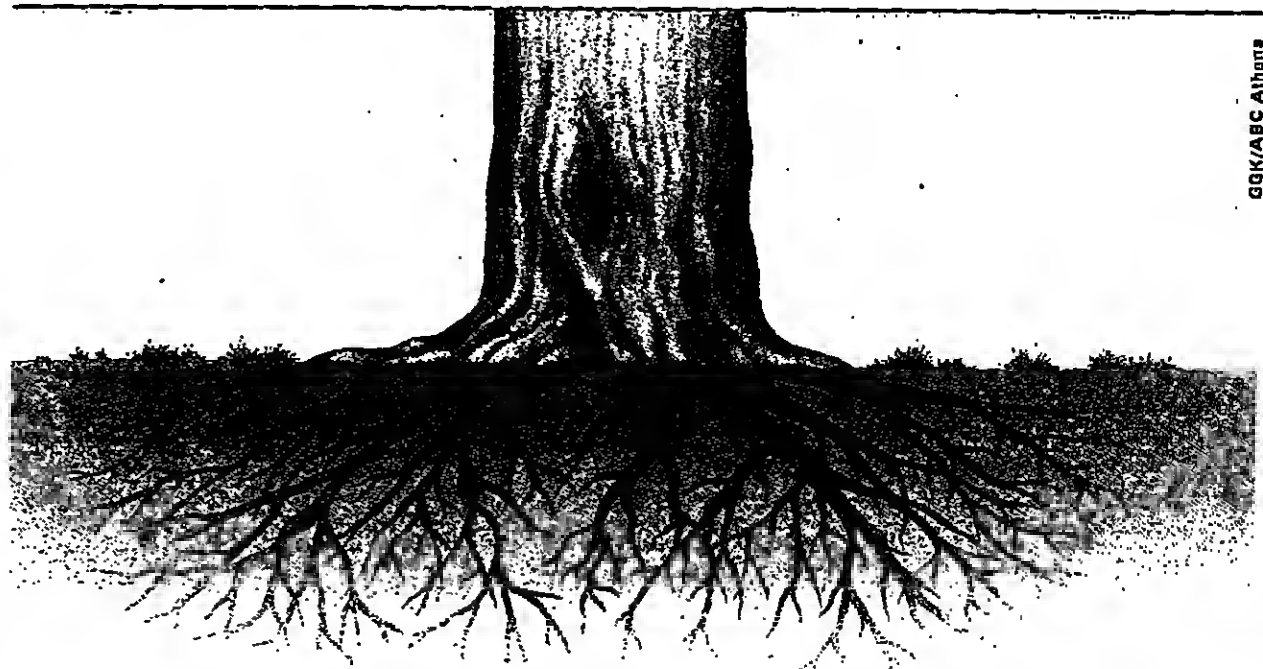
Hermes: The ancient Greek god of Communication and Commerce. Sculpted by Praxiteles 4th C. B.C., Museum of Ancient Olympia



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Traders in an Athens street market. The government is acting to curb the black economy by extending the tax net for trades and professions

Eye on a 'black hole'

The government seeks to reconcile a booming private sector and heavy public debt. Victor Walker reports

At first glance, it is difficult to see why George Yennimatas, Greece's economy and finance minister, should have found stitching together the budget for 1994 the "nightmare" that he said it was. In a European Community racked by unemployment, and increasingly by social disturbances, Greece appears to be an oasis of tranquillity and prosperity.

Unemployment, whether it is the 6.3 per cent registered unemployed or the estimated true total of about 9 per cent, is well below the EC average, and falling month by month. The main trade unions are unlikely to rebel over a further year of the wage austerity they accepted under the previous conservative government.

Inflation is dropping, too: while the present 12.8 per cent may be the worst in the EC, it is Greece's lowest for a decade.

Even the balance of payments has ceased to be a headache. The current account balance is steadily in surplus, helped by a narrowing trade gap and swelling inflows from the EC budget, shipping and tourism. Industry is healthy and industrialists are optimistic over opportunities in the EC's single market and the Balkan and East European countries. Greek businessmen are moving determinedly into the Balkans.

Just how far Greeks' disposable income is immune to inflation and wage restraint is shown by the health of the construction sector and the brisk business in shops, night clubs, tavernas, theatres and cinemas, as well as hi-fi and video sales.

The reason for Mr Yennimatas's nightmares is the difference between a booming private sector and an ailing state. The state has a budget deficit and level of debt that led Andreas Papandreu, the prime minister, to declare that "either the nation will eliminate the debt or the debt will eliminate the nation".

The public debt is now conservatively estimated at 117 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), and the public sector deficit at 13 per cent without debt servicing. Even if the 1994 budget forecasts are achieved, the situation will change little.

The budget anticipates revenue up 23 per cent at 7,364 billion drachmae (£20 billion) and expenditure up 17.6 per

cent at 9,787 billion drachmae (£26.7 billion). The government expects to borrow at least \$4 billion abroad and to raise 3,700 billion drachmae (£10 billion) domestically, adding to debts estimated at the end of 1993 at 15,206 billion drachmae (£41.4 billion) domestically and 4,469 billion drachmae (£12 billion) in foreign currencies.

This burden is accepted as the main cause of inflation and chief obstacle to reducing the cost of money.

Mr Papandreu speaks of eliminating the debt, but his government remains hostage to its socialist ideology. It has accepted the principle of "some privatisation", but its first action was to cancel sales scheduled by the outgoing

government for 1993, and this and electoral uncertainties accounted for what Mr Yennimatas terms a "black hole" in the 1993 budget.

The government also speaks of cutbacks in the public sector, but is moving to rehire up to 20,000 former employees who claim to have lost jobs for "political reasons" under the previous government.

Hopes of increased revenues are based on yet another assault on Greece's notorious black economy, estimated to account for between 35 and 40 per cent of GDP. This is to be achieved by extending the tax net to the so-far immune farm sector, and more fully to the professions where evasion is known to be rife, notably doctors, lawyers, civil engineers, providers of fix-it services and small tradesmen.

The tax bite on lower income groups is to be reduced and increased for the well-off.

A search to create regional stability

Athens is keen to promote its stabilising role, writes

Thanos Veremis

Greek foreign policy has been dominated recently by developments in the Balkans, particularly the former Yugoslavia. The Greeks are preoccupied by the need to create stability in the region, and their new socialist party (Pasok) government will be stressing Greece's role as a stabilising force.

Greece, it is pointed out, is the most important source of investment and remittances in the region, and is the local representative of the European Union. Theodoros Pangalos, the minister for European affairs, will capitalise on this regional role when Greece takes over the presidency of the EU's council of ministers in January.

Athens's immediate preoccupation, however, has been the differences between itself and other members of the EU over terms for the recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Because it arouses such strong emotions, Greece is keen to keep the issue out of the limelight, and it still has to be seen whether there will be a significant shift in Greece's own position under the new government.

The last nine months of the outgoing New Democracy government were a desperate race against time. Stephanos Manos, the economy minister, struggled to bring down the high rate of inflation, while Michalis Papaconstantinou, the foreign minister, travelled round the European capitals in an effort to limit the damage caused by Greece's Balkan policy by the intransigence of his predecessor, Antonis Samaras, over recognition of the former Yugoslav republic.

The Greek position is that use by the republic of the name of Macedonia could imply a claim on Greece's ancient past — when Macedonia was a Greek kingdom ruled by, among others, Alexander the Great — or on its present-day province of Macedonia. In 1992 João de Deus Pinheiro, then Portuguese foreign minister, proposed a package solution in which the former Yugoslav republic reportedly would have been called "New Macedonia" as a

way of defusing such claims.

Senhor Pinheiro's compromise proposal would have vindicated the Greek position that Macedonia, after the demise of the ancient state that bore its name, had been nothing more than a piece of geography, split up in contemporary times between Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania. But Mr Samaras refused to accept the compromise, and Mr Papaconstantinou, too, was worried by it.

In any case Constantine Mitsotakis's government had a majority of only two in parliament, and Mr Samaras was able to hold him to ransom, by threatening to withdraw the support of deputies friendly to him if Mr Mitsotakis made any move towards reconciliation with the former Yugoslav republic. Mr Mitsotakis was careful not to give him cause for such reprisals, but Mr Samaras eventually chose to topple the government in September over an economic rather than a foreign-policy issue.

Pasok won a comfortable majority in the subsequent election, and is not under a similar constraint to take an intransigent line. Despite some campaign rhetoric by Andreas Papandreu, now prime minister, who was determined not to lose votes to the nationalist appeal of Mr Samaras, his choice of Karolos Papoulias as the foreign minister indicates that the hardliners have not won the day.

Not long after taking office, Mr Papoulias informed Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, that unless its terms were met Greece would withhold recognition of the former Yugoslav republic. His letter also indicated, however, that the Greek government would take

no further action to prevent other states from giving recognition, so as to avoid using up its resources of credibility on the issue.

Mr Papoulias made a tour of the Balkans in November which revealed something of the government's objectives in the region. Mr Papandreu appears to believe that America is the primary actor in the Balkans, while the European Union is going through a phase of ambiguity and confusion. He hopes, therefore, to co-operate with the Americans in working for stability there.

In the Greek view, the present situation in the Balkans offers opportunities for such co-operation. Greece has made big investments in Bulgaria, and has provided valuable support to Albania through the remittances of some 300,000 immigrant workers in the Greek labour market, for neither of which has it received much applause in Europe.

By contrast, American involvement in the region is based on one-sided support for such anti-communist stalwarts as Filip Dimitrov, the former Bulgarian prime minister, and President Sali Berisha of Albania. The thought is that the Greek socialist government could act as an intermediary in a reconciliation between the Americans and the Bulgarian and Albanian socialists who, inevitably, will replace the Democrats in the parliamentary rotation of power. In return, Greece would stand to gain from an American commitment to the territorial status quo in the Balkans.

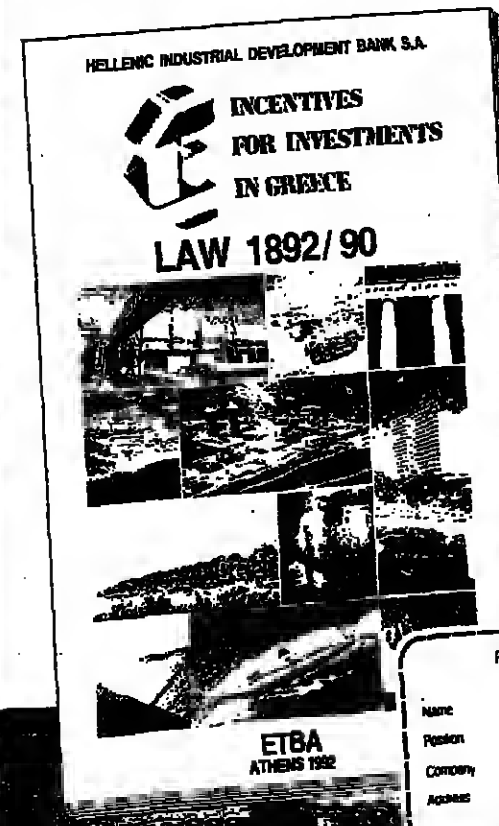
Since the first secessionist demands began to stir in the former Yugoslavia, Greece has tried to warn its European partners against unconditional recognition of the various republics before making an effort to persuade them to agree on a confederal or commonwealth relationship. Subsequent developments, sadly, have vindicated Greek admonitions.

■ The author is director of the Hellenic Foundation for Defence and Foreign Policy.

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Greeks bear gift for civilisation

Hellenic culture made a unique contribution to the world and the nation cherishes the heritage. Peter Strafford reports

What is Greek, or Hellenic, culture, and does it, in spite of its ancient origins, have any value in today's world? Most people would agree that it has, since ancient Greek art, literature, philosophy and, in the broadest sense, science were some of the foundation stones of Western civilisation. But in the eyes of the modern Greeks, it goes beyond that.

Today's Greeks see their culture, not as something buried in a distant past, in the days of Pericles, Alexander the Great, or the Byzantine Empire, but as a living asset, and one that should be promoted in the national interest in a competitive and dangerous world.

Last year the Greek parliament voted unanimously to set up a Foundation for Hellenic Culture. This summer it held the First World Assembly of the Friends of Hellenic Culture, for which it invited some 300 academics, politicians, writers and others from round the world to visit Greece to sample Greek culture.

The first stop was Athens, and an evening at the theatre of Herodes Atticus, built below the Acropolis in the 2nd century AD. With the Parthenon standing majestically above their heads, actors read poetry relating to Greece written in Greek, English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. The present Lord Byron was there to hear his ancestor's poem, "The Isles of Greece". The following day the group set sail from Piraeus on the *Odysseus* for an island cruise.

Three islands were chosen as being outstanding examples of Greek culture—Delos, Patmos and Santorini. Delos was the birthplace of Apollo, and still has today the excavated remains of what for centuries was one of the religious and commercial centres of the ancient world. In Patmos, the group moved on to the early Christian world, seeing the island where St John is said to have had the inspiration for, and possibly written, the *Book of Revelation*.

In Santorini, also known as Thera, they went far back in time to

tour the small Cycladic town, once full of wall-paintings, that was overwhelmed in a volcanic eruption in, perhaps, 1628BC.

The foundation was the brainchild of the late Professor Ioannis Georgakakis, a distinguished academic, lawyer and public servant who died last month. He became the first president of the foundation, and told the visitors last June that Greek culture had "a universal dimension among mankind".

He added, in an interview with *The Times*, that the idea of the foundation stemmed from a sense of danger. "I was addressing the Foreign Policy Association in Athens, and I spoke of the pessimistic outlook of the Greeks today. We see ourselves surrounded by threatening people, and in an unhappy situation. The main positive element was Greek culture."

So the foundation will promote Greek culture, both ancient and modern. As Professor Georgakakis saw it, it should not be overtly political, and should avoid nationalism. But its establishment clearly springs from Greek anxiety over developments in the Balkans, particularly the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, compounded by age-old mistrust of its large neighbour, Turkey. The Greeks are determined that the world should not forget them.

An Aegean cruise is well calculated to show Greece at its best. This summer, under a strong sun and a clear blue sky, the *Odysseus* sailed past islands that seemed to float on the water. Dolphins leapt out of the sea alongside the ship. At the small anchorage off Delos, the foundation's guests went ashore to tour an island that used to welcome pilgrims and traders in thousands.

Delos is now uninhabited except for a few custodians. But it is covered with truncated pieces of marble that testify to its grandiose past, and the wild flowers that now grow over them. There are relics of past temples, monuments, villas, a theatre and a stadium. Most strikingly, a row of archaic marble lions, donated by the Naxians in the 7th century BC, still stands.

Patmos lies further east, a hilly,

arid island where St John is said to have been sent into exile from Ephesus. It has a picturesque little port, Stala, full of white, cube-shaped houses, but its main glory today is the monastery of St John, a fortress-like building, complete with battlements, which stands on the top of one of the island's hills. Clustered around the monastery are the steep, narrow streets and white houses of Chora, the capital. St John is said to have been exiled by the Roman emperor Domitian towards the end of the 1st century. The monastery was not founded until the 11th century, but it soon became a centre of wealth and power, and still has a rich collection of icons, wall-paintings, books and church ornaments. Down below is the cave in which St John is said to have had his vision.

Santorini, the last of the three islands, is the most dramatic, since it was largely formed by the cataclysmic eruption which tore out its centre in the second millennium BC. The resulting crater was some six miles across, but part of its walls collapsed and the sea poured in, so that today ships sail into the crater, and the remaining walls tower 1,000ft above them. They are dark and menacing, while perched high above are the white houses of several of the island's towns.

In the 1960s Spiridon Marinatos, the archaeologist, discovered a town which, like Pompeii some 1,700 years later, had been overwhelmed by the eruption; and it proved to have been rich and cultivated with fine pottery and vivid paintings of people, plants, birds, animals, ships and much else.

By burying the town, the eruption preserved the achievements of one of the high points of ancient Aegean civilisation, when the culture of the Cycladic islands came into contact with that of Minoan Crete. Today many of the paintings are in the National Museum in Athens. Santorini is still waiting for a new museum of its own. But the excavations have uncovered one of the deep roots of Greek culture.



Archaeologists uncovered a cultural treasure trove on the spectacular volcanic island of Santorini

Shippers in stormy waters

The Greek shipping industry, the largest in the European Community and still growing, is preparing to lock horns with the European Commission over proposals for a common shipping policy. The Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS) is arguing that an "action plan", tabled for discussion in Brussels over the next few months, could end by damaging the international competitiveness not only of Greek-flag operations, but also of EC shipping as a whole.

The commission's plan would affect the Greek ocean-going fleet, regarded as the "workhorse" of the industry. It includes proposals for directives on a wide range of shipping matters among them the training of officers and crew, manning levels, taxation systems, and measures to improve safety and reduce the risks of pollution.

The basic Greek position is that free and fair competition can best be ensured by worldwide implementation of the conventions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and not by over-regulation at EC level that could spark both a flight from all community flags and retaliatory measures by those third countries worst affected by the regulations.

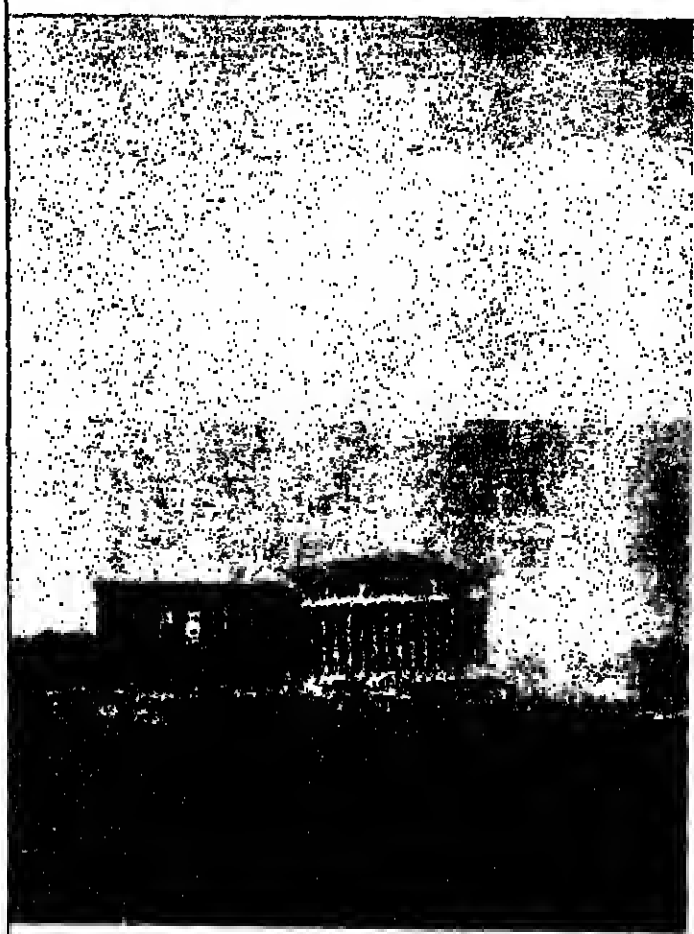
As owners of by far the biggest and most successful Greek fleet, the Greeks also hope to persuade their partners to adopt the Greek taxation model, which is based on tonnage trading and not on financial results. And they argue that a ship's safety is a matter, not of its age alone, but of maintenance and operation.

Greece has, essentially, two merchant fleets. One, which would be affected by the recent commission proposals, consists of tankers and of dry, wet and specialised cargo carriers that ply the world's oceans. These obtain 95 per cent of their business from cross-trading. The ships are growing in number and becoming more modern.

The other is made up of the cargo/passenger ferries. Since the cutting of road and rail links through former Yugoslavia, the Italy services have become Greece's most direct communication with the EC for trade and an important means of access for tourists. There are also 30 to 40 luxury cruise liners operating out of Piraeus in peak season.

VICTOR WALKER

THANK GOD SHE LEFT THE LIGHT ON



Acropolis, Athens.

Athena, Goddess of wisdom. The source of light. The light of the ancient Greek civilization which still burns bright all over the world. But nowhere does this light burn brighter than on the Acropolis, the site of the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena, Goddess of wisdom, protector of the city of Athens.

The Acropolis stands proud above the city of Athens, testament to the achievement of classical Greece. And it's only one of 1,200 wonderful archaeological sites in this ancient land. A land illuminated by the light of Gods.

More mortals have marvelled at the quality of this light. Did the Gods choose Greece for its light? Or is the light divine because the Gods lived here? Who knows. But thank God they left it on.

The Gods could have chosen light from anywhere. They chose the light of Greece.



GREECE

Chosen by the Gods

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PATH-BREAKING INITIATIVES IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY DELTA: DYNAMIC GROWTH IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD

Quote "NICHE-GROWTH" IS THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE FOR A MEDIUM-SIZED FIRM IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET".

The critical factor behind the success of medium-sized firms in the food industry lies in their ability to:

- identify unexploited market niches,
- produce goods of high quality,
- use sophisticated marketing techniques,
- adopt flexible organizational structures and decision-making processes.

This form of successful survival and growth may be called "niche growth" in an intensely competitive environment.

The South European and Balkan areas as well as our company, DELTA, provide an example along these lines. Markets in these two regions are still fragmented. Market institutions are still relatively underdeveloped. Consumers usually act on the "me too" principle, i.e. there is a strong demonstration effect. Demand for food is still relatively income elastic, as incomes grow. A tendency to harmonize products does exist, yet national differences in tastes and preferences still remain strong. Rapid growth rates are more than feasible, yet they go hand-in-hand with high risks.

Food processors can be successful in these markets as long as they recognize the value and importance of the following factors:

- the underdevelopment of the markets as well as the lack of knowledge about the adequate functioning of market institutions necessitate patience and adaptation/adaptability.
- the importance of discovering and using local talent should not be underestimated.
- political and cultural differences should be taken into account when conducting business.
- market penetration rather than profit maximization should have the first priority, at least in the short run.

These factors represent the culmination of our successful experience in Bulgaria. An experience where we became the first Greek company to form a joint production and distribution venture and to carry out direct investment in that country. We needed a long two years to test the market, carry out negotiations (which were often on the edge of failure), bring about the modernization of the plant, set up the distribution network and begin to sell our locally produced ice-creams. Our ice-cream operation at Varna is now a going concern and results are quite satisfactory. In a 3-year period, our sales volume is expected to reach three quarters of our Greek business, where we enjoy a dominant leadership position.

Even more, however, we have acquired an important production base which will serve us well as we continue with our expansion in other Balkan countries. And, above all, we possess now a thorough knowledge of the dynamics of cross-cultural management in the Balkan peninsula.

The reason for our success in both Greece and the Balkan lies in two simple factors: first, we have learned to focus on the core business that we developed and know well. And secondly, we are trying to be the aggressive innovators, the pioneers of market transformation.

We started off as a small company producing yoghurt and distributing milk. We have managed to turn ourselves, in the short span of thirty years, into the largest Greek processor and distributor with total sales which exceed USD\$ 250 mil and profit of more than USD\$ 25 mil. Our product mix includes fresh pasteurized milk, yoghurt, chilled fruit juices, ice-cream and frozen foods. And this is coupled by an extensive intervention in the milk zone where we invested more than USD\$ 30 mil. In order to ameliorate and standardize the cows milk delivered to the firm. The fresh pasteurized and homogenized milk in gable top, the chilled, natural fruit juices in gable top and the premium ice-cream sticks are all successful innovations, and above all, they are moves that changed the marketplace and shifted consumer habits.

Our activities have now acquired an international dimension. Fruit juices will now be produced in Switzerland, where we have formed a joint venture with a local dairy, MILKO, and will be distributed to Northern Italy, the Benelux countries and Switzerland, as well as in France (where the product has been successfully market tested already under the brand name DELIOS).

A recent strategic alliance with BSN, which has acquired a 10% interest in DELTA, gives us access to the larger European market place. Both companies are better positioned to exploit new market opportunities in the Balkan and East European regions as well as to better serve existing European markets.

مكتبة من الأصل

Holligan aims to blow away Chávez myth



FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN PUEBLA, MEXICO

ANDY Holligan is certain that he is going to cause the boxing upset of the century here at the Cuauhtémoc stadium tomorrow — a feat that would be greater even than the achievements of Randolph Turpin, who in 1951 beat the great Sugar Ray Robinson, Lloyd Honeyghan, who stopped Donald Curry in 1986 and James 'Buster' Douglas, who knocked out Mike Tyson in 1990.

The lad from Liverpool, who is the British and Commonwealth light-welterweight champion, believes he is not only going to beat Julio César Chávez, who some experts believe is the greatest fighter, pound-for-pound, ever, by taking his World Boxing Council (WBC) high-welterweight title away from him in his own backyard before 70,000 of his countrymen and at an altitude of 7,000ft.

Holligan is going to do this by turning boxing strategy upside down. He intends to meet the most devastating puncher in the division

head on and outpunch him. Listening to Holligan and Colin Moorcroft, his trainer, talking about tactics makes you wonder if the sun and the altitude has not seriously affected them. As for the altitude, all this talk about special training is a load of bunk as far as they are concerned.

Holligan, 26, a former ABA champion, believes he is stronger than Pernell Whitaker, who last October appeared to outpoint Chávez, but was given a draw, albeit that that match was made at the heavier poundage of welterweight. "I'm stronger," Holligan said. "If you are stronger you can push Chávez back." It does not matter to Holligan that he has never done this to the great Mexican. When he first heard of the match five weeks ago, he was a little nervous. As he watched films of Chávez's contests, he realised that even if the rest of the world thought he had no chance at all, he believed he could do it. "As it gets nearer and nearer I get more and more confident."

Holligan and Moorcroft are convinced that Chávez is slipping and that following reports that the Mexican has not trained properly, they think they have taken the bout at just the right moment. Holligan has sparred 90 rounds since coming to Mexico nearly four weeks ago, and, apart from initial breathing troubles, he said that the altitude is not bothering him any more. "I'm going to get stronger and stronger as the fight goes on," he said yesterday. Before they packed their bags for Mexico, Moorcroft made a hurried call to an altitude training

expert in the Isle of Man, but when they arrived here they simply ignored his advice and got on with training as usual.

"He said not to do too much for three days and not to go into the gym, but I just wanted to get on with it so we went straight into training," Holligan said. It was not surprising that for the first 14 days he found he could hardly breathe after climbing the three flights of stairs to his gym in Mexico City. "I felt done in just climbing those stairs with my bags," Holligan said. "But then, suddenly

it clicked, I felt great and I've had no trouble since then."

Even though Holligan has had only one contest in 13 months, he looked extremely fit in training. He belted his sparring partner about the ring, flooring him three times. After that, he went through six rounds of ring and floor exercises and looked comfortable.

He is not worried about the body punches that Chávez is famous for. He has been doing over 400 sit-ups a day and believes he can take the champion's heaviest blows. "They say he's got a punch," Holligan said. "But I've never seen him knock anyone out with it."

Reports of Holligan's progress were carried to Chávez, who trains the other side of town. "I have the greatest respect for Holligan," Chávez said. "I respect him because he has not been saying bad things about me like the others. I asked for a tape of his fights but did not receive it, but those who have seen him say he looks very good."

Holligan, who was born in Kirby but now lives in Walton, won the British and Commonwealth title in

1991 but is hardly known outside Liverpool. He is unbeaten in 21 contests but that is far short of the 88 wins against only one draw — against Whitaker — that 31-year-old Chávez boasts. At present, he is self-managed but for the last five years he has been under two of the best British managers, B.J. Eastwood and Mickey Duff.

Soon after he won the ABA title in 1987 he gave up his job as painter and decorator and joined Eastwood. He left Eastwood claiming that he was not getting enough work and joined Duff.

He appeared to be getting on well, lifting the British and Commonwealth titles and being nominated for the European championship. But somehow their temperaments did not seem to work and Holligan joined Frank Warren, a rival London promoter. It was through Warren, who is an agent of Don King, Chávez's promoter, that he found himself elevated from No 6 in the rankings to challenger. Holligan will earn his career-best purse of £80,000 for this bout.

Board's seal of approval

THE British Boxing Board of Control has no qualms about Andy Holligan taking on Julio César Chávez for the Mexican's two world light-welterweight championship belts in Puebla, Mexico (Bryan Stiles writes).

Holligan is ranked sixth in the world and holds the British and Commonwealth titles. "He has an excellent record, has been training at altitude for weeks and Chávez is

said by some to be slipping," Simon Block, the assistant general secretary of the board, said in London yesterday.

"He was granted permission to take on Chávez and is fighting as the underdog, but Holligan is a strong, aggressive boxer and he will be going in with the chance of an upset, just as Lloyd Honeyghan did against Don Curry and became world champion."

Skelton stays on successful course with Olympia win

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

NICK Skelton made a rousing start to the Olympia show jumping championships yesterday, winning the Brandy Butter Stakes, the opening event of the five-day show, riding Everest Limited Edition.

Skelton's uninhibited display of jumping relegated John Whitaker and his Wembley grand prix winner, Everest Grannusch, to second place by 0.35sec. None of the other 30 riders could match these two. Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, came closest, but he was some six seconds slower.

Skelton, 35, who is enjoying the most successful season of his 16-year career, is a show director's dream. His will to win is the same whether the class is worth £900, as it was yesterday, or £12,000, which is what he won on Everest Dollar Girl in the Calgary grand prix in September.

"A win is a win," Skelton, who was the leading rider at

for almost a third of that figure with her Calgary win, will compete in the main class tonight. Skelton, who is eighth in the European league for the Volvo World Cup, will then decide which of the two he will ride in the World qualifier tomorrow.

Even if he wins tomorrow, Skelton will not be tempted to chase the £200,000 on offer in the new grand slam series. The third leg of the series is in Brussels in February and Skelton, refreshingly, will not let anything interfere with the two months' rest he believes his horses are due after this show.

Skelton will spend those two months pursuing a new interest, training point-to-pointers. "Racing has always been my first love," Skelton said. "I've got two point-to-pointers in the yard who'll be having their first outing on January 15, ridden by my stepbrother, Michael Jones."

Skelton was out of luck in the second class of the afternoon, the Christmas Candle Stakes, in which Whitaker was again relegated to second place, this time by his younger brother, Michael, on Everest Monsant.

The 19-year-old Irish gelding, who won the Hickstead Derby for the third time this year and the Irish Derby for the second time, was found to be suffering from a virus after the Millstreet Show in October. Yesterday, however, he looked as fit and well as a horse half his age as he galloped effortlessly round the twisting course to record the winning time of 36.94sec.

John Whitaker, riding his new horse, Everest Bikkie, on which he won in Vienna last month, put up a superb challenge to finish in 37.67sec, equal with James Fisher, on Tip Toe. David Broome, still a favourite with the noisy Olympia crowd, finished fourth on Feedback.

At Harpur College, Gloucestershire, is to host the third world dressage championships for disabled riders, which take place from July 21 to 24 next year. More than 100 riders are expected to compete. £150,000 towards the £175,000 needed to run the championships has already been raised. The British team will be sponsored by Body Rock, the manufacturers of equestrian clothing.

Dollar Girl, who accounted



Probyn, the Wasps and England prop forward, ready to sign copies of *Upfront* — The Jeff Probyn Story that surround him in Lillywhites

England's front man props up book business

This column arrived early at Lillywhites sports shop on the south side of Piccadilly Circus. The column had a gentle wander around the cricket department, gazed at a real live scoreboard showing the batting side on 214 for seven.

Batsman No 7 had scored 43. No 8 was on one. The last wicket had fallen at 122... a situation that poses more questions than it answers.

A customer in a Panama hat approached the white-facemasked MCC-jerseyed assistant to glean the price of "this cricket ball".

"£7.99," says the pro. Panama hat has a little think, then asks: "How much is that one?"

"£7.99," says the pro. "It is the same ball." Not wishing to trespass on a private grief, we move away quickly.

Inside the shop's front door is a table containing 51 copies of *Upfront* — The Jeff Probyn Story; also a bottle of Perrier and two glasses. The Wasps and England prop forward is due to arrive for a signing

session at 12.30pm. To say that the place was abuzz with excitement would not be telling it like it was.

Last month, we passed W H Smith at Sloane Square and noticed a vast queue of citizens stretching down Lower Sloane Street towards the river. Lady Thatcher was due to sign copies of *The Downing Street Years*.

Outside Lillywhites there was a modicum of street theatre: a clamping van doing its business on a baker's delivery truck and half a dozen Japanese taking pictures of each other. Inside the shop it was calm. Three women — two representatives of the management, one of the publishers — chatted as they glanced at the door. Two lads were playing a computerised tennis machine; people came and people went.

And then he came in. A big fellow in a loose mackintosh which he took off to show an open-neck grey shirt and pink blazer, he sat behind the table depicting 51 pictures of himself and two genuine shoppers



FREUD ON FRIDAY

approached in an orderly queue. Each bought a copy of *Upfront*, each asked for it to be signed and each took his copy to the cash desk and handed over £15.00, from which each received back 1p. A scant half-dozen shoppers provided the backdrop... and a differently proportioned prop forward approached, gripped the microphone and spoke to us in Australian.

"Good morning," he said, amending this to "good afternoon" — welcome to the biggest sports shop in England, in fact the biggest sports store in the whole country.

Today you have the opportunity to get yourself an autographed book by Jeff Probyn — whom everyone who has followed rugby will know as a great scrummer. Seriously though, many people watch rugby on TV... when did you write this book, Jeff?

"I didn't write it," Probyn said. "It was written by Barry Newcombe."

Over the next ten minutes a trickle of book buyers came along, people who might have boasted with our star forward had the Australian provided a gap in his verbiage.

"This will make a great Christmas present for a rugby fan," he told a woman who came forward. He enquired whether she played rugby — "a lot of mixed rugby about, girls are much more violent than men". Standing behind a rack of football shirts, we rather hoped the woman would elbow the Australian where it hurt most. She disappointed.

At 12.45 activity around the book table subsided, though the Australian continued like a real professional: "If you know anyone who would like to have this book, Jeff will sign it for you," he called into the open spaces of sports software. "He's a really human man, will talk to anyone, he's talked to me. And he certainly signed a lot of books, the pile is really diminishing and it's a really controversial book I look forward to reading it myself. Are there going to be a lot of red faces at Twickenham, Jeff?"

Probyn mumbled something non-committal. The Australian said: "It's a good read; any good parts in it, Jeff?"

Jeff thought the parts about his youth and then about his club games and the international were all good.

"And you can read about the World Cup. England were in the final and lost to Australia, which came as real good news to me... though not to Jeff — the sort of man whose

background you will want to know about. If you've just arrived it was written by Barry Newcombe. If you don't want Jeff to sign the book he'll sign anything else — pieces of paper, shirts, whatever."

Behind us on Sky television, Graf was beating Fernandez again. Three boys asked Probyn to sign pieces of paper. "Shall I put Merry Christmas?" he said. "Yes, please," said the boys.

And at 1.30 it was over. Twenty-three books remained. It had gone well, everybody thought, though not quite as well as Frank Bruno's signing — that had been the best.

Probyn gave us a book and signed it with good wishes. "What do you do now," we asked. He makes reproduction furniture; family business in Shorefield. "No money in rugby unless you are the captain."

Nice man, Probyn, we thought and then, it being Christmas, felt that the Australian was a really agreeable chap also.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

LURDANE

(a) A general term of opprobrium, reproach, or abuse, implying either dullness and incapacity, or idleness and rascality, a slang, vagabond, loafer, from the OF *lurdin*, loud heavy. false folk etymology from *Lord-Dane*. Milton, 1641: "Lurdane, quoth the Philosopher, thy folly is as great as thy fifth."

MARCID

(b) Withered, wasted, decayed, rotten, from the Latin *marcidus* withered, *marcere* to wither. Bowles in *Dryden's Juvenal*, 1692: "He on his own Fish pours the noblest Oil! That to your marcid dye, Herbs assign'd." By the rank smell and taste betrays its kind."

EXOTERIC

(c) Intelligible to outsiders, ie not esoteric, of philosophical doctrines, treatises, modes of speech, designed for or suitable for the generality of disciples, communicated to outsiders, intelligible to the public, from the Greek *exotērikos*, adjective of the comparative of *exō* outside: "Plato, like Pythagoras, had esoteric and esoteric opinions."

DIVULSION

(d) Rending asunder, being torn apart, the action of pulling, tearing or plucking asunder, from the Latin *dis* apart + *vellere* to pluck or pull: "To sever such adhesions by sudden, forcible divulsion, is painful."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qxd3 2 Qxd3 Bc4 wins rook for bishop.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chicago 108 Boston 98; Philadelphia 101 Denver 82; Utah 87 Minnesota 85; San Antonio 111 Portland 91; Phoenix 110 Golden State 104; LA Clippers 110 Orlando 108; Milwaukee 96 Sacramento 89.

WORLD'S EUROPEAN CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final: Group A: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 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Battered image needs quick cure

David Miller, chief sports correspondent, continues his investigation into the future prospects of British sport. Today, rugby union

The best of rugby union is the ultimate paradox of modern sport. Idealistically amateur yet factually professional, ethically sporting yet persistently foul, genuinely character-forming yet stily expedient, administratively honourable yet wantonly hypocritical.

Unless these four contradictions within a great sport are quickly resolved by an administration that is demonstrably more amateur than the professional players it attempts to denounce, the game might become unplayable for genuine sportsmen, unwatchable for discerning spectators and unacceptable for protective parents. A shame for a sport excitingly led in England by Geoff Cooke and others.

I can do no better than quote Clem Thomas, that notably hard flunker, whose cross-kick led to Wales' defeat of the 1954 All Blacks. A famously evocative rugby name is Steele Bodger, and no forward steel-bodgered more vigorously than Thomas, but in the present issue of *Rugby World*, the magazine, he states:

"Foul play and cheating are the two factors that can make the game unplayable... the All Blacks are guilty of both... international rugby players are among the most physical yet literate and I believe they know exactly what they are doing." As Edmund Burke said, for evil to triumph, all that is needed is for good men to do nothing.

Contradiction is almost endemic to the game. The (English) Rugby Football Union (RFU) has just completed the largest, most modern, stadium for any sport in Britain, operationally dependent on maximum commercialisation and player-commitment, while the Rugby World Cup Limited has just signed an £18 million television contract for 1995. Yet the players, according to amiable Canute impersonators such as Dudley Wood, secretary of the RFU, must remain unpaid.

Whether it is the dilemma of professionalism or of violence, Wood's is the voice that enables diehard traditionalists to feel comfortable, the public manifestation of rugby's self-defensive conscience that allows others to get on with the game as it is now. For better or worse.

The recently completed All Blacks tour contained such extremes of cheating that legislation must surely be introduced — as in cricket — for the appointment of independent judges at "test" matches, with the power of arbitrary suspension of guilty players undetected by referee or linesman.

As with the past examples of Argentina or Germany in football's World Cups of 1966, 1982 or 1990, or West Indies or Pakistan during recent cricket tours, it is unrealistic to expect team management to discipline their teams. Wood has stated that rugby has all the power it needs: the sanction of non-selection. That voluntary action does not happen.

Furthermore, of the 61 countries affiliated to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), only 12 have any power. An executive council comprises the eight founding

members — four British, France, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, with two votes each, and Argentina, Canada, Italy and Japan, with one. This means that nothing much happens that the founding eight do not like; for example, condemnation of each other's sharp practice.

New Zealand returned home not apologetic for foul play but complaining about the accusations of foul play by Carling, Moore and others.

Yet the relatively innocuous protests by Ian Beer, the RFU president — he viewed the horrific injury to Philip de Glanville as a "careless, over-enthusiastic incident" — dismayed many, especially parents of young rugby players.

More disapproving speeches, by Beer or Sir Peter Yarranton, former president of the RFU and now chairman of the Sports Council, mean little. Beer claims that the nebulous "12-hour limit" for protest prevented more positive action over de Glanville's injury, the evidence only being

seen by Beer on BBC television the following evening. An alert official would have been in the BBC scanner room within ten minutes of the end of the game.

Beer's successor will be Denis Easby, a solicitor from Reading and member of the IRFB amateur and laws sub-committees. With Sir Ewart Bell, chairman of the Rugby World Cup, Easby is representative of the more progressive view within rugby, those who, even reluctantly, recognise the need to contradict the conservatism of the likes of Wood.

"I suppose I'm probably left of centre," Easby concedes. "I understand the views of other countries [veering to professionalism]. The amateur battle, Easby admits, is probably lost. "Within ten years, those at the top will probably carry on much as they like," he said. "What we'd like to stop is players being 'bought' by one club from another, but it's impossible. I believe in Ewart Bell's principle — if you can't control, accept. And then control. We're an amateur organisation, we can't run a professional police force."

Rugby union cannot have it both ways: vast crowds, important televised competitions and amateur performers. "Rugby is facing its biggest dilemma ever," Gavin Hastings, the British Isles captain, said. "The expansion of the World Cup between 1987 and 1991, in sponsorship and spectator and television interest, has led to increased demands by administrators, the game and players. The administrators are moving towards compensating players, but the compensation is not sufficient."

Hastings has just returned from a visit to South Africa where, self-evidently, the senior players are full-time. What is the point, he asks rhetorically, of an IRFB that does not set clear regulations, where the home unions are not giving at the same international pace as the southern hemisphere, even allowing for the fact that the game is so much more important in South Africa and New Zealand. "There is no doubt in my



De Glanville, after playing against the All Blacks, presents the unacceptable face of modern-day rugby union

mind that, within five to seven years, rugby union will be a professional game," Hastings said. "Whether it could sustain itself, at club level, is another matter. Almost certainly not in Scotland."

He thinks there will be an Anglo-Scottish-Welsh league, with promotion and relegation, because the concentration of English players at a few clubs cannot continue. Of the 46 players shortlisted for the All Blacks match, 42 came from five clubs.

Given the contradiction that the amateur-orientated governing bodies want more competition, Hastings advocates a five nations' tournament with home and away matches between every country each season, staged in either two phases or as an eight-week end-of-season finale. He believes rugby will go the way of football and cricket 25 years ago: open, with lower grade competitors remaining amateur, professionals freely accepted. "We have to learn from other sports," Hastings said. He believes that, as in golf, coaches and players should be included in the administration. "I'll be gone in a couple of years but players' views are necessary."

Easby, acknowledging that the commercial operation of Murrayfield and Twickenham needs the collaboration of "amateur" players, and that there are grey areas of finan-

cial reward for players that can never be properly controlled, stresses that what rugby wants to avoid is the creation of a Tottenham Hotspur-Gascongne-Lazio inflation that could bankrupt sections of the game the way it has in football.

He points out that legitimate refund, under IRFB regulations, of lost income allows recompense of £40 per day and £22 personal and communication allowance. £62, or equivalent to £21,000 per annum. He sees nothing wrong with a sponsor agreeing to pay a player's salary, though the difference between that and professionalism seems academic. Easby senses that many members of the IRFB are "less and less willing" to go along with the

foundation members. He agrees that the board is undemocratic and that the four "outsiders" on the council should have the equality of two votes each, though he is against the ultimate, United Nations-style one country, one vote among all 61.

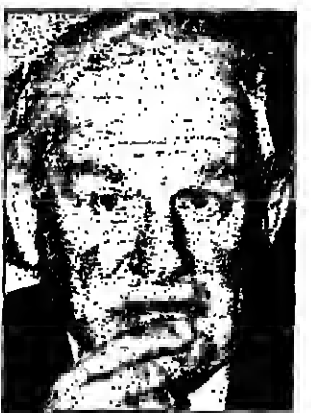
"We'd never achieve management," he said. "But if someone wants to litigate against unacceptable board regulations, let them litigate. We, the RFU, put £1 million a year into development. The problem with payments [to players] is that, as in athletics, the top handful take most of it." An insoluble problem.

"The IRFB is a body in transition," Sir Ewart said, "and will have to adjust further. It's probable that regional groups will obtain a

place on the executive council, though I'm no longer a member. It's a matter of balance between democracy and efficiency, with the present situation deriving from a difference in playing strengths."

Sir Ewart considers reasonable the players' compensation claim for potentially damaged career prospects. "There is no alternative," he admits. The RFU, he said, is obliged to drive the players to finance the new Twickenham, even while some officials continue to pontificate on player status. "The commercial input is growing all the time and it's difficult to draw the line [on compensation]," he said.

He thinks the development of the Rugby World Cup over the next decade will play a significant part in what happens to the game as a whole. "In a few years, there will be a levelling," he said. "With the small able to compete with the best." As in cricket, as in soccer, the RFU, not to say the IRFB, need to recognise that running rugby is no longer a long service reward for part-time officials, former players who built a separate career and personal financial stability elsewhere. The senior game must not be full-time just for players.



Wood: conservatism



Yarranton: weak speech

The exciting future for golf

SPORT IN BRIEF

Prost hints at return to try for fifth title

RON Dennis, the managing director of the McLaren Formula One team, admitted last night that he had not given up hope of persuading Alain Prost, the four times world champion, to renounce his retirement from the sport and return to grand prix racing next year (Oliver Holt writes). Prost retired at the end of last season, having won a record 51 grands prix and insisted that he would not return as a driver.

But ambiguous comments he made when he collected his world championship trophy at a prize-giving ceremony in Paris last week fuelled speculation that he might be on the verge of announcing a decision to try to equal Juan-Manuel Fangio's record of five world titles. Dennis, speaking from his team's headquarters in Woking, said: "How many French people do you know? They change their minds without the least concern. I am constantly in touch with all the drivers that could contribute to the future of McLaren. You have just got to put two and two together."

Test blow to Australia

CRICKET: Steve Waugh could miss the first two Test matches of the series against South Africa after tearing a hamstring in his left leg in Australia's three-run win over New Zealand in the World Series Cup in Melbourne yesterday. Waugh pulled up in obvious pain after completing a quick single and immediately left the field for treatment.

New Zealand were restricted to 199 for nine in reply to Australia's 202 for five in their 50 overs, with Shane Warne ripping through the middle order in a spell of four for 19. They could have won, however, had Danny Morrison managed to hit a six off the last ball from Craig McDermott. However, he was restricted to two to deep cover.

□ Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, scored an unbeaten 66 to help his side beat West Indies by three wickets with 11 balls to spare in the international in Colombo yesterday.

Arnold top coach

AWARDS: Malcolm Arnold, who helped Colin Jackson win the world 110 metres hurdles title this year, was named male coach of the year in the annual awards of the National Coaching Foundation yesterday. The equivalent female award went to Christine Still, who has aided many gymnasts to reach national and international level. Ruth Prideaux, coach to the England women's cricket team, won the female team coach award and Jefferson Williamson, the volleyball coach, won the male team coach award.

McClennan leaves

RUGBY LEAGUE: Mike McClennan is resigning as coach of St Helens after tonight's championship home match against Hull Kingston Rovers. McClennan, who has been coach since February 1990, will fly home to New Zealand next week, five months earlier than expected. Shane Cooper, the St Helens captain, and Frank Barrow, the reserve team coach, will take charge until a successor is appointed. A club statement stressed the decision had nothing to do with a beer-throwing incident involving McClennan last Saturday.

Twin target for Clark

BADMINTON: Gill Clark yesterday improved her chances of reaching the finals of both the women's and mixed doubles events in the world grand prix finals in Kuala Lumpur. Clark and Joanne Wright beat Cheng Yin Sat and Chung Hoi Yuk, of Hong Kong, 15-13, 15-11 to ensure that their meeting with the top Indonesians, Eriandhi and Lili Tjahjaja, will decide who reaches the final from their group. Clark and Nick Poulton must beat Gillian Gowers and Michael Søgaard to reach the mixed doubles final.

England pick Hawes

BOWLS: Catherine Hawes, of Cherwell Indoor Bowls Club in Oxford, will become the youngest woman to play for England on carpet when she takes part in the home international series at Blackpool Borough from March 22 to 24. Hawes, 22, reached the English under-25 indoor singles final in 1991 and helped Oxford to win the national outdoor triples title in 1992. She is one of five newcomers named by the England selectors, who hope to exploit their home advantage and regain the British title from Scotland.

Queen's Club survive

REAL TENNIS: Queen's Club gained revenge for their defeat by Petworth House last year in the Fields Trophy, the national inter-club championship, when they scraped home 3-2 to reach the semi-finals of the tournament yesterday. Although Petworth won both doubles matches, Queen's won all three singles and William Maltby, their No 3, clinched the match when he defeated Charles Puente in straight sets. Queen's now meet a strong MCC side for a place in the final while Seacourt play Hatfield in the other half of the draw.

Centre awarded £1.5m

SPORTS GRANTS: The Foundation for Sport and the Arts yesterday handed out 813 awards totalling more than £16 million, bringing its total grants to about £170 million since it began funding operations 30 months ago. The biggest amount, £1.5 million, went towards the development of the sports centre at University College, London. The Central Council of Physical Recreation received £300,000, Ickleton School, Derbyshire, £250,000 and the English Table Tennis Association £305,000.

Croft hoping to shine despite black eye

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PORT ELIZABETH

FIVE wins from five matches is good going, whatever the opposition. Today a happy and united England A side enter the second four-day game of this tour expecting Eastern Province to present different problems to those encountered in the nine-wicket victory over Transvaal.

The pitch at St George's Park is bare at both ends and likely to favour spin, which should ensure Robert Croft, Glamorgan's 23-year-old off-spinner, of a game as Peter Such's partner, Martin McCague, who played at Zwide on Wednesday, came through an extended practice session yesterday and ought to share the new ball with Mark Iton.

Martin Bicknell, who damaged his ribs in the nets at Zwide, and saw an orthopaedic specialist on Wednesday night, must undergo an isotope bone scan today to deter-

mine whether the injury affects bone or soft tissue. Bob Bennett and Phil Neale, the tour and team managers, are prepared to give him the best possible chance to recover.

"If he was going to be out of action for a week or ten days, it would be worth waiting because there is still a lot of cricket left on the tour," Neale said. Bicknell did not bowl yesterday, though he had a bat.

A significant part of the A team strategy, to prepare players for the senior tour to West Indies in case they are required there, accounts for this show of patience, and it makes sense. This party was selected with an eye on the future: if a replacement is needed it will not be Andy Babbington.

There was a minor injury worry when Croft was struck under the right eye by a ball from Dominic Cork. He is sporting a shiner, but he is fit.

Setback for luckless Igglesden

ALAN Igglesden, the Kent fast bowler who pulled out of two of England's Test matches against Australia last summer, is injured again.

Igglesden, a member of the party to tour West Indies, has strained a side muscle during the team's week of practice in Portugal and is unlikely to bowl seriously until the party arrives in Antigua on January 15.

He tried a few gentle deliveries yesterday but was clearly in discomfort and went for treatment by Dave Roberts, the physiotherapist. "It's not serious now, although it would be if we were starting a Test match tomorrow," Roberts said. "I'm quite sure he will be all right by the time we leave for the Caribbean."

Pakistan under Brain's spell

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ZIMBABWE, who have given a surprisingly good account of themselves on their tour of Pakistan, must have exceeded their wildest dreams by dismissing their hosts for 147 on the opening day of the third Test in Lahore.

Left-arm David Brain, playing in only his third Test, led the way as the Zimbabwe seam bowlers made short work of a powerful batting line-up.

Brain, who finished with five for 42, was given fine support by Eddo Brandes and John Rennie, who claimed three for 45 and two for 22 respectively.

Andy Flower's decision to bowl first after winning the toss paid handsome dividends for Pakistan were dismissed in 51.4 overs soon after the second interval.

Imran-ul-Haq was top scorer with 33 while veteran Javed Miandad, playing his 124th test, contributed 31 and Basil Ali 29. Javed and Basil

kept Zimbabwe at bay for just over an hour, sharing a fourth-wicket partnership of 53, but this was the only stand of consequence.

Brain made the breakthrough by removing Asim Sobah with the fourth ball of his first over. Alistair Campbell taking a brilliant catch in the gully with only three runs on the board.

Shoaib Mohammad and Imran-ul-Haq on as the ball swung and seamed freely but just as the worst seemed to be

over were dismissed in the space of four balls, leaving Pakistan reeling at 60 for three at lunch.

Zimbabwe, who went into the game 2-0 down in the three-match series, claimed five wickets in the afternoon session as Pakistan slipped to 140 for eight by tea, the end coming soon afterwards.

By the close, Zimbabwe had scored 15 without loss in eight overs and were well placed to record their first Test-match victory.

PAKISTAN: First innings		ZIMBABWE: First innings	
Asim Sobah c Campbell b Brain	2	G W Flower not out	40
Shoaib Mohammad c Brandes b Rennie	12	M W Dettori not out	2
Imran-ul-Haq b Brandes	33	Edwards (lb 1, nb 2)	2
Javed Miandad bow b Brain	31	Toussaint (lb 6 wicket)	15
Basil Ali b Brain	29	A O R Campbell, D L Houghton, "A" Flower, G H Sobah, G J Whitham, W J Brandes, E A Brandes and J A Rennie to bat	
Asif Ikhlas c James b Brain	7		
Yousuf Younis b Brandes	7		
Wahab Raza not out	15		
Muhammad Asif b Brandes	0		
Abdur-Rehman c James b Rennie	0		
Extras (lb 4, nb 4)	14		
Total	147		

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-50, 3-54, 4-107, 5-111, 6-130, 7-130, 8-135, 9-140	
BOWLING: Brandes 14-3-45-3; Brain 15-3-42-5; Shoaib 12-3-25-0; Rennie 10-4-32-2.	
ZIMBABWE: First innings	
G W Flower not out	40
M W Dettori not out	2
Edwards (lb 1, nb 2)	2
Toussaint (lb 6 wicket)	15
A O R Campbell, D L Houghton, "A" Flower, G H Sobah, G J Whitham, W J Brandes, E A Brandes and J A Rennie to bat	
BOWLING: Brandes 14-3-45-3; Brain 15-3-42-5; Shoaib 12-3-25-0; Rennie 10-4-32-2.	

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Obergurgl	45	100 good powder	good snow	-4	16/12
St Anton	35	135 good powder	good snow	0	16/12
FRANCE					
Chamonix	60	240 n/a	n/a	cloud	2 16/12
S Chavaler	40	100 good powder	good snow	0	16/12
Tignes	95	260 powder	powder snow	9	16/12
Val d'Isère	80	180 powder	powder snow	-4	16/12
Val Thorens	150	300 powder	powder snow	7	16/12
ITALY					
Cervinia	50	300 good powder	good snow	-3	16/12
SWITZERLAND					
C Montina	90	200 good powder	good snow	2	16/12
Verbier	40	150 good powder	good snow	-3	16/12
Zermatt	25	150 good powder	good snow	5	16/12
UNITED STATES					
Albion	40	100 fair	varied	cloud	2 11/12
Steamboat	90	140 good powder	good snow	3	16/12

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

SKELTON GETS A
FLYING START
AT OLYMPIA

SPORT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 1993

RACING 45

OFFICIALS LEFT
BLUSHING OVER
RACE FIASCO

New Zealand turns to Meads

Management takes rap for tour failings

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE New Zealand rugby authorities took dramatic action yesterday following the tour of England and Scotland which ended this month. The All Blacks won 12 and lost only one of their 13 matches, but that record was not enough to save Neil Gray, the tour manager, from dismissal.

Gray was also criticised for his handling of the Jamie Joseph affair. He refused to reveal the punishment meted out to Joseph for stamping on Kyrn Bracken during the England-New Zealand international at the All Blacks' defeat. Bracken, the Bristol scrum half, has not played since.

The New Zealand Rugby Football Union council also criticised the late addition to the party of Mike Brewer, one of the three selectors who chose the party, has also been sacked and replaced by Lyn Colling.

"At the time, the decision [to reprimand Joseph] was kept within the team environment, but the council feels they should have made public the details of the disciplinary action in order that justice be seen to be done," a statement said, mindful no doubt that the climate of opinion had been affected by the description early in the tour by the New Zealand management of Philip de Glanville's eye injury as an "unfortunate accident" in a ruck.

Eddie Tonks, the council chairman, added that Joseph had been severely reprimanded and omitted from the last two matches of the tour, though it is difficult to understand how that decision can be made retrospective since the management vehemently denied at the time that his omission formed part of what was described as an "in-house" punishment.

At the same time, the council pointed out that Brewer, who has played hardly any representative rugby for years,

was brought into the tour party at a time when Liam Barry and John Mitchell were fit and available. Brewer, who captained Otago when Laurie Mains, now the New Zealand coach, was on business in England during the tour, but the council surely felt he was surplus to requirements. He was among the replacements for the matches against England and the Barbarians and played the final minutes of the game in Cardiff against the Bas-Bas.

Clearly Gray, a farmer from Morrinsville, has been made the scapegoat for these decisions and for not-dissimilar reactions to violent play that occurred during the All Blacks' tour of Australia in 1992.



Joseph: reprimanded

1992. His role now passes to another farmer, Meads, the legendary lock from the King Country who played 55 times for New Zealand between 1957 and 1971. This completes the rehabilitation of Meads, whose administrative career passed under a cloud after he coached the unofficial New Zealand Cavaliers in South Africa in 1986.

"The events of 1986 are dead and buried," Meads, the most extrovert of communicators, said.

Meads's elevation adds an influential voice to those seeking greater remuneration for players, since he is on record as calling for a professional level in the game so long as arrangements are on an equi-

table basis. "Players these days have all got to look to their future," he said while the British Isles were touring New Zealand last summer. "There are some people in high places on the international board who still believe strongly in the amateur game, but they are out of touch with the realities of modern rugby."

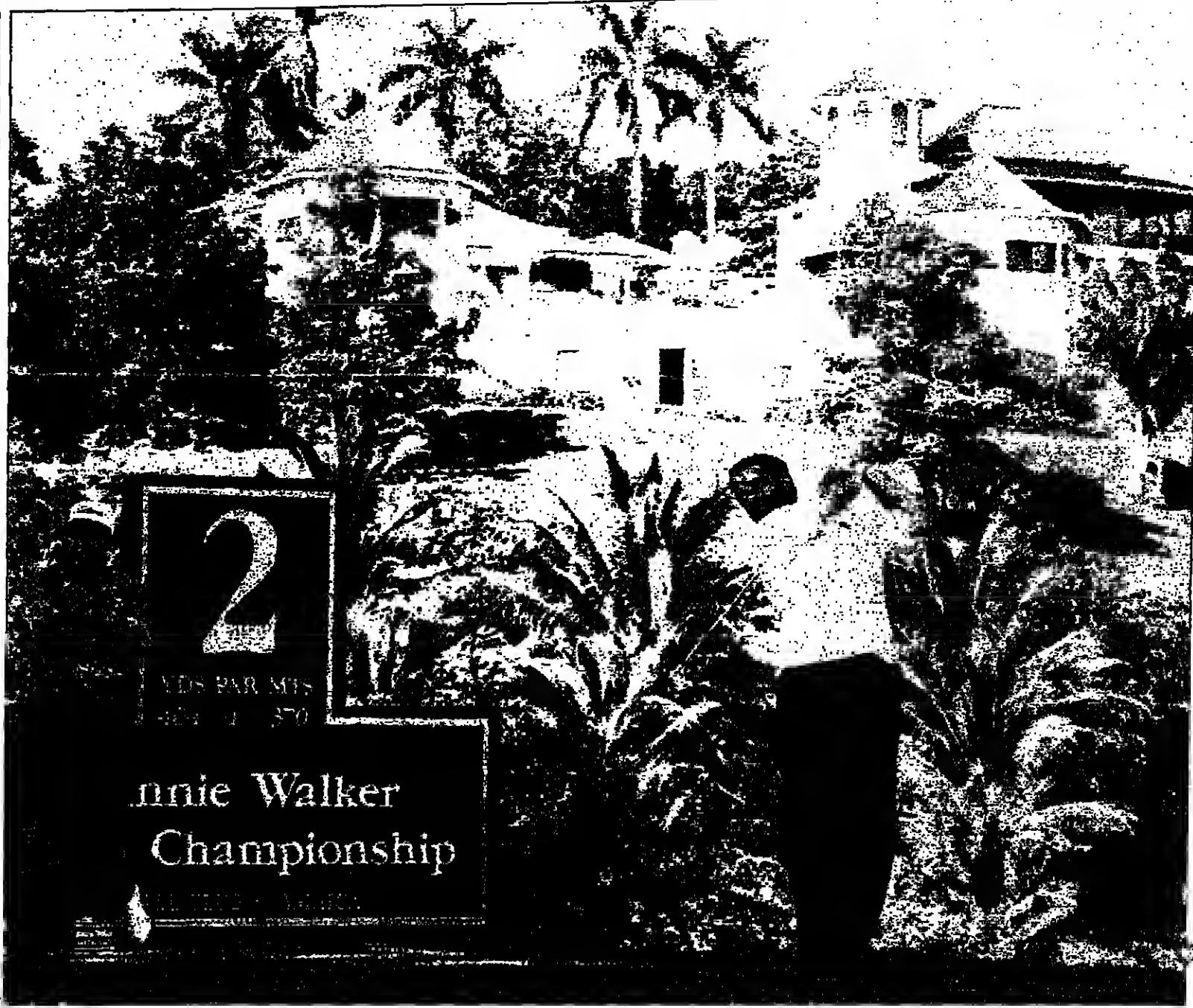
The appointment of Colling, a former scrum half who toured Britain in 1972-73, completes a remarkable triumvirate of former Otago players now at the helm of New Zealand rugby — Mains and Earle Kirtson played there during the 1960s — and comes at the expense of Thorburn, from North Harbour.

While Mains and Kirtson enjoyed the higher profile with national teams, Thorburn looked after New Zealand's under-21 and sevens teams, both of which had an indifferent 1993. He was also involved with the development party, whose tour of Pacific islands ended prematurely this year after a public-house brawl.

Since the New Zealand council was so concerned with disciplinary aspects of the recent tour, it is not surprising that they also published plans to tighten up procedure in their own country. Next year, 48 hours will be allowed for citing players — a procedure which British officials may well consider more closely — and they plan to introduce two "official" spectators at leading matches to watch for incidents of foul play.

Referees will also be permitted to see videos of matches so that reports on foul play can be clarified and the New Zealand union will ask permission of the International Rugby Football Board to establish a two-man panel to adjudicate on instances of foul play which occur during tour matches in their country. That would relieve officials directly involved of responsibility for recommending punishment of their own players.

Clement Freud, page 44
David Miller, page 46



Torrance, of Scotland, tees off at the 2nd hole on the first day of the world championship in Jamaica. He shot a disappointing round of 73

Torrance wilts in Jamaican heat

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN JAMAICA

SAM Torrance's year, which began in Madeira in January, is not going to end with a Caribbean calypso — at least not unless his golf improves. Yesterday, the Scot scored a lacklustre 73 in the first round of the world championship at the Tryall club, ten miles from Montego Bay.

He was quickly overtaken by Steve Elkington, whose 68 was the best round of the early finishers in the Johnnie Walker-sponsored event. Torrance, 40 last August, found the 90°F sunshine energy sapping and it was made worse by high humidity. He had wanted to play in shorts but John Paramor, the tournament director, banned them. "This is

not holiday golf," he said. To wear shorts or not is not a laughing matter. Torrance was just one of a number of players who had asked to dress in such a way but Paramor was adamant. He relented, however, and allowed the caddies, who are not normally allowed to wear shorts, to do so.

Dealing with the heat was a problem that faced many of the players. Some of them carried bottles of water from which they drank regularly. Torrance draped a wet towel over his shoulders, wore a visor and pulled his shirt out of his trousers so it looked rather like a short skirt. There was a reason for this: He perspires so much that his shirt becomes tight and he is unable to complete his backswing.

He looked a sight and knew it. "I'm not going for the sartorial elegance award this week," he said. "It was as hot as I have ever known out there."

"I had intended to use six gloves and change each one every three holes but, as I tore two of them putting them on, I ended up using only four."

Torrance's golf was affected by his frame of mind. The outward half, which winds its way through the hills, is the more difficult of the two halves at Tryall and Torrance was three over par by the time he reached the 10th tee.

He left a 20-foot putt on the edge of the hole for a birdie there but was cheered when a putt of similar length disappeared into the hole for a birdie on the 11th.

Torrance has only two

weeks off before he starts his 1994 campaign with a tournament in South Africa. "I accepted the invitation to go to South Africa in the morning and that same afternoon I got invited to this," he said. "Sod's law, I suppose. Normally, I would not dream of playing in both. The season is too long and you have to have a proper break."

Elkington, who lives in Houston but was born in Australia, found himself able to cope more easily with the heat. The hallmark of his round was its consistency. He had only one bogey and that on the 8th, the 447-yard par four.

For some time now, he has been held up as the possessor of the best swing on the United States tour. It is now beginning to look as though his

game is matching that level of perfection.

Shorts? "They will be all right by me," Elkington said. But then he thought for a moment and said: "Perhaps on second thoughts they would take away from the atmosphere that the organisers are trying to create."

Gordon Brand Jr found the heat so oppressive that he developed a raging headache on his way to his one-under-par 70. He managed to take some tablets that relieved the pain to such effect that he birdied two of his three closing holes and ended with something approaching a smile on his face.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 68: S Elkington (Aus); 69: F Alim (SA); 70: G Brand Jr (USA); 71: C Woods (UK); 72: S Torrance (SCO); 74: J Parmer (USA); 75: B Crowther (USA); 76: B Hughes (Wales); 77: S O'Grady (Ireland); 78: S O'Grady (Ireland).

Yorath hopes for compromise over new contract

BY KERRI PIKE



Yorath: flexible

TERRY Yorath's future as the manager of the Wales football team was unresolved last night after a hectic day of negotiations in Cardiff over the renewal of his contract, which expires on December 31.

Alun Evans, the chief executive of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), was believed to be meeting with fellow members of the committee that will decide Yorath's future. Earlier in the day he had said that Yorath's contract would not be renewed, but after speaking to him in the afternoon said Yorath "had indicated he was prepared to be flexible" over his demands, and "had come forward with some new ideas". It seems a compromise may

be reached within the next few days.

Yorath, who was appointed in April 1988 on a part-time basis and became full-time manager in June 1991, has asked for a 33 per cent increase on his present salary, thought to be around £45,000 a year. He also wanted a four-year deal that would take in the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup. The FAW is believed to have offered only a two-year contract, agreeing to meet Yorath's financial requirements by way of a bonus should Wales qualify for the 1996 European championship finals.

Yorath insisted that he was keen to negotiate further with the FAW. "I have had an amicable conversation with Alun Evans and hopefully he will come back to me," he said. "There are

not large sums of money involved, there is not that much between us. I have never said my position was not negotiable, and I am hopeful that I can reach some kind of agreement. My demands are not excessive."

"It is not a personality clash between myself and Alun Evans. I understand that he has to look after the interests of the FAW. I cannot stop them looking for my successor — that's up to them. But I could walk out tomorrow knowing I have done the best job for Wales I could have done."

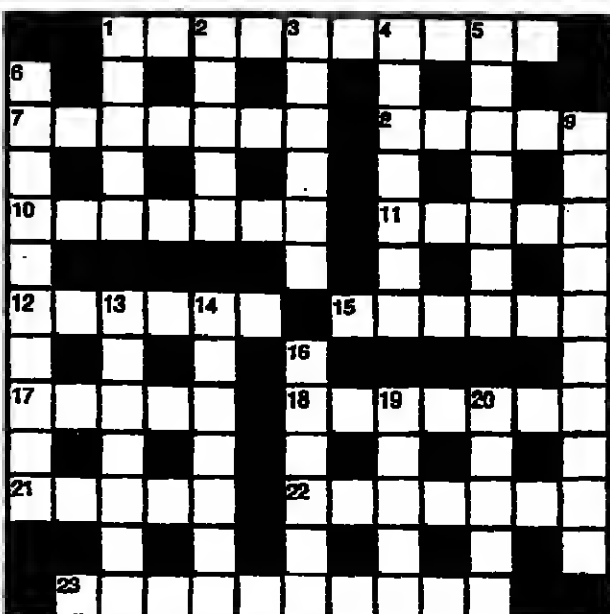
After a 2-1 defeat by Romania in Cardiff last month had ended Wales' hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the United States next summer, Yorath revealed that he had been offered lucrative coaching contracts in Greece, Turkey and Japan,

although his family are thought to be unwilling to leave their home in Leeds.

Capped 59 times by Wales between 1969 and 1980, and captain a record 43 times, Yorath, 43, would also be reluctant to leave his job. He has the unqualified support of the Wales players and is keen to oversee a restructuring of the game in Wales from grass-roots level upwards.

Should Yorath and the FAW fail to reach agreement — the negotiations have been going on for nearly three weeks — it is likely that Terry Venables, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager, would top the FAW list of possible replacements.

Maine Road crisis, page 43
German decline, page 43



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 41

ACROSS

- 1 Long-lived patriarch (10)
- 7 Patio (7)
- 8 Ascend (5)
- 10 Let go (7)
- 11 Spanish (and US) square (5)
- 12 Towards summit (6)
- 15 Commit to prison pending trial (6)
- 17 Printer's insertion sign (5)
- 18 Extinct wild ox (7)
- 21 Cell; safe; diminish (5)
- 22 Water race meeting (7)
- 23 Remarkable capacity for alcohol (6,4)

DOWN

- 1 Maxim (5)
- 2 Jewelled head-dress (5)
- 3 Not smooth (6)
- 4 Absconder (7)
- 5 Pantomime wood-cutter (3,4)
- 6 Drink for huntsman (7,3)
- 9 Rolled-up, cream-filled biscuit (6,4)
- 13 Nelson: friend of Hamlet (7)
- 14 Word for word (7)
- 16 Turnulus (6)
- 19 Deranged elephant (5)
- 20 Skin proper (5)

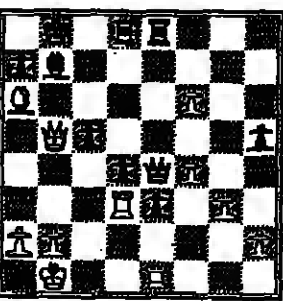
SOLUTION TO NO 40

- ACROSS: 8 Iron Age 9 Aside 10 Perishing 11 Gog 12 Reich 14 Thymine 15 Scalpel 17 Therm 19 Hop 20 Razor-bill 22 Ozon 23 Reading
- DOWN: 1 Kipper 2 Tour 3 Pass the parcel 4 Desist 5 Hang by a thread 6 Disguise 7 League 13 Teaspoon 15 School 16 Lizard 18 Malign 21 Ibis

Grandmasters

Artur Yusupov and Jon Speelman were World Championship Semi-Finalists in 1989, but in their game from the Hastings Premier 1989/90, Speelman, playing Black, overlooked a possibility to win material. Can you see what he missed? For details of the category 13 Hastings Premier, ring 0424 445348.

Solution, page 44



By Philip Howard

LURDANE

- a. A Danish islander
- b. Flowering bugloss
- c. Dull and lazy

MARCID

- a. A follower of St Mark
- b. Withered
- c. Bitterly ironic

EXOTERIC

- a. Easy to understand
- b. Tending to emigrate
- c. Having big ears

DIVULSION

- a. Abhorrence
- b. Tearing apart
- c. Turning one's face away

Answers on page 44

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each. Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.99. Concise Book 1 £5.99, The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each. Books 14 to 16 £4.25 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each. Book 11 £4.25. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Alfons Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

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